The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1892.

The Week.

THE voice of the people of New York in the town elections of twenty counties is clearly audible in the following table, compiled by the Albany *Evening Journal*, showing the political divisions in the new Boards of Supervisors as compared with those chosen last year:

	1891.		1892.	
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.
Broome	14	15	22	7
Chemung	7	4	3	8
Chenango	9	12	13	8
Cortland	7	8	10	5
Cattaraugus	19	13	20	12
Delaware	11	8	12	7
Franklin	12	7	16	3
Herkimer	10	9	12	7
Madison	9	5	13	1
Montgomery	4	6	6	4
Onondaga	7	12	15	4
Otsego	13	11	13	11
Putnam	3	3	3	3
Schoharie	3	13	6	10
Schuyler	5	3	4	4
Seneca	5	5	5	5
St. Lawrence	27	4	28	3
Steuben	15	17	23	9
Tioga	6	4	9	1
Washington	13	4	15	2
Totals	199	163	248	114

Here is a net Democratic loss of 49 in a total of 163, or more than 30 per cent. That is a condemnation of Hillism, as exhibited in seat-stealing and snap-convention-calling, which is not to be misunderstood. The Democratic party would have small chance of carrying the State of New York with a candidate in any way representing the odious performances which have called forth such a rebuke as that. The voters of the counties in which Hill perpetrated his canvassing-board outrages are clearly determined that there shall be no chance for the repetition of those outrages after the next election. The Republicans have made gains in fifteen of the twenty counties, have held their own unchanged in three others, and the Democrats have made gains in only two, one of these being Hill's corrupted county of Chemung.

However reluctant the bar may be to attack a judge on the bench, and however incompetent the public may be for the task of initiating a movement against him, it can hardly be that we are reduced to such helplessness that nothing will be done to call Judge Maynard to account for his share in the late election frauds. He has been positively charged by one of the witnesses in a judicial inquiry with having assisted in these frauds, by abstracting one of the returns from the official custodian on its way to the Board of Canvassers. This is a criminal offence, defined in the Penal Code as "grand larceny in the second degree," and punishable by imprisonment for not less than two or more than five years. He has, further, in the public estimation as the matter stands at present, apparently been appointed to a seat in the Court of Appeals, to fill an unexpired term, as a reward for the commission of this offence. No such incident has heretofore occurred in our judicial annals. We do not say that the charge has been proved. Judge Maynard may have a defence to it. But nothing has as yet been done to make him produce this defence. No proceeding is pending in which he is a party defendant.

The testimony of the Comptroller and his messenger shows that Mr. Maynard, without any authority whatever, went into the Comptroller's office and abstracted from his mail an official document which had been sent to the Comptroller for him to file in the official records of the State. This document was the legal return of the election in the Fifteenth Senatorial District, showing that the Republican candidate had been elected. If that return had been received by the Comptroller and filed by him, in accordance with his oath of office, with the State Canvassing Board, that Board would have been obliged to canvass it as the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals directed, and the Democrats could not have stolen control of the Senate. One other bit of evidence has been given which implicates Judge Maynard as the leader in the conspiracy by which this legal return was prevented from reaching the State Canvassing Board. In the statement which Senator Hill made to Col. George Bliss, and which the latter repeated to Judge Cullen in Brooklyn on February 10, Mr. Hill declared that when the Clerk of Dutchess County, who is himself charged with inducing one of the Governor's messengers to give him a duplicate of the legal return from the Governor's mail, came to him on the morning that Mr. Maynard committed his offence, and asked his advice as Governor about what he should do to regain possession of the returns, he as Governor advised the clerk to "see Deputy Attorney-General Maynard, who was counsel for the State Board of Canvassers, and take his advice." Whether a movement to bring Judge Maynard to justice be made or not, the members of the bar owe it to themselves and to the community not to allow it to go on the record that such a man had been placed upon the bench of the Court of Appeals without their notice.

The Maryland House on Thursday, by a vote of 78 to 3, the full Democratic vote in the affirmative, adopted a resolution declaring it their sense that the National House of Representatives "should deal with the subject of tariff reform, whether by general bill or otherwise, upon the broad lines marked out by President Cleveland's message of December, 1887, and the Mills Bill, in order that the party may enter upon the great contest of 1892 with a definite policy, which will convince the country that it does not mean to take any backward step, and that its faith in the common sense and conscience of the people is unshaken." This is as clear and explicit as a declaration could well be made. Such a deliverance would be of importance if made by any body of Democrats, but its significance is vastly increased when it comes from the Legislature of Maryland, a State whose Democratic leaders have been charged with inclining towards the reactionary policy advocated and represented by Hill. As this Legislature recently reëlected Mr. Gorman to his seat in the Senate, and ratified his choice for the other seat, its present action should convince even Hill of the folly of expecting Mr. Gorman's support.

The first popular verdict to be rendered by the Democrats of any part of the country upon the reactionary tendencies in the party which have been manifested at Washington the last two months, has been pronounced in the Sixteenth Congressional District of Illinois. That district is represented by Mr. George W. Fithian, who made the fight in 1890 upon the tariff-reform issue, and went to Washington at the opening of the session prepared to continue it. He therefore refused, as did two other Illinois Democrats, to support Springer as a candidate for Speaker, and voted for Mills as the champion of tariff reform. During and after the contest for Speaker, these three recalcitrants were threatened with defeat for renomination in their districts because they had refused to be fooled by the "favorite son" doctrine. The canvass for members of the next Congress begins in Illinois soon after the first session of the existing Congress has opened, and most of the primaries in Mr. Fithian's district have now been held. He has already enough delegates instructed for him to insure his renomination, and the same result appears certain in the districts of his two associates, Mr. Lane and Mr. Forman. Such object-les-

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sons as this will not be lost upon the managers of the Democratic party.

We are now near the beginning of March. Some persons of influence were confident that Congress might adjourn by the middle of May. But what with the dilatoriness of the Committee of Ways and Means and the doggedness of the Watch-Dog of the Treasury, no tariff bill, large or small, had been reported until the 16th day of February, and only one appropriation bill, and that the shortest of all, has passed the House. The result is that the country is gaining the conviction that the tariff issue is to be "burked" in order that Mr. Cleveland may not become too popular before the Convention meets. Any tariff fight whatever is certain to enure to his benefit. When the pugnacity of the Democrats is excited, as it will be by a real struggle on that issue, the fact that Mr. Cleveland made the issue will be impressed upon the public mind. If there were a settled purpose in the Speakership contest to defeat Mr. Cleveland, it would manifest itself in a sluggish tariff policy rather than in a single-bill policy. We do not think that Mr. Springer has any sinister design whatever, but we take leave to remind him that his own fortunes and those of his party are at stake equally with those of Presidential candidates, few or many, and that he cannot afford to waste more time.

Congressman Harter of Ohio has sent a very telling document to the Grand Army posts throughout the country, showing what effect the free coinage of silver would have on pensions and pensioners. Such a measure would substitute the value of a silver dollar in place of the value of a gold dollar on every pension. The silver dollar is now worth 70 cents. Consequently all pensions would be worth, under the silver régime, 70 per cent. of what they are now worth. Thirty cents would be shaved off each dollar of pensions. A soldier now getting $4 per month would then get only $2.80, and all others in proportion. But, says Mr. Harter, and here he is perfectly sound, the prospect is that silver will decline still more. It is more likely to fall to 60 cents per dollar than to go back to 80 cents. Every new railway built in the mountains, and every new discovery in metallurgy, tend to increase the product of silver and to lower its value. It is a fact that ores which cost *twenty-one* dollars per ton for treatment in Colorado a few years ago, are now treated for *six* dollars per ton. These discoveries and new facilities are as applicable to the ores of Canada, Mexico, and other countries as to those of the United States. The most productive silver mine in the world at the present time is the Broken Hill Proprietary of Australia. Mexico is only beginning to show what she can do in the way of silver output with modern machinery, modern transportation, and modern chemistry. But supposing that the price of silver does not fall any more, the depreciation of pensions under free coinage would be equal to $45,000,000 per year. What is true of pensioners is equally true of savings-bank depositors, life-insurance beneficiaries, and all persons who have fixed payments in *dollars* coming to them. Such persons cannot recoup themselves by strikes any more than they can ward off a thunderbolt by shaking their fists at the sky.

In view of these palpable facts, how foolish and belated is the report of Mr. Bland's Committee presented to the House of Representatives on Monday. Much space is taken in it to show that there can be no "Dump of Silver" in this country from any other part of the world, because there are no great stocks of silver accumulated anywhere. If this were true, it would prove nothing to the point, since the great store of mother Earth would continue to swamp the market in the future as it has in the past. Who would have thought, when the Government's purchases of silver were raised from two millions to four and a half millions per month, that the price would fall 26 cents per ounce in eighteen months? Yet that is what has happened. The price in August, 1890, was 116.9 cents; it is now about 90, and there is no reason to suppose that it has reached its minimum. And yet Mr. Bland puts some emphasis on the statement that there is no great supply of silver in sight that might be dumped upon us at short notice. But, says this report, the foreigner cannot bring silver here and exchange it for gold without the consent of the owner of the gold. No, but everybody who has to pay a debt, including the savings banks, the life-insurance companies, and the Government, can pay depositors, widows, orphans, and pensioners with money worth 30 per cent. less than it is now worth, and *must* do so, because, when the standard of the country is changed, they cannot help themselves.

Mr. Bland's Free-Coinage Bill differs so widely from any measure heretofore proposed by anybody that we can hardly give it serious consideration. The proposal to make our standard of value depend upon the standard of another country, and to have all of our silver dollars recoined on a new ratio in the event that that other country does something, is altogether absurd. This proviso deserves careful attention. It reads as follows:

"Section 6. That so soon as France shall reopen her mints to the free and unrestricted coinage of silver at her present ratio, namely, fifteen and one-half pounds of silver to be worth one pound of gold, Troy, it shall be the duty of the President of the United States to immediately make public proclamation of that fact, whereupon the said ratio shall be the legal ratio of the United States, and thereafter the standard silver dollar shall consist of 400 grains of standard silver, and the laws relating to the standard silver dollars of 412½ grains standard silver shall be applicable to the new dollar of 400 grains standard silver. That the silver dollars of 412½ grains then in the Treasury or thereafter coming into the Treasury shall immediately and as fast as practicable be coined into dollars of 400 grains standard silver. Any gain or seigniorage arising therefrom shall be accounted for and paid into the Treasury."

There are 349,000,000 of standard silver dollars in the Treasury. Of this sum $320,000,000 belongs to the holders of silver certificates which are in circulation. Is the Government to seize upon these standard silver dollars and clip off 12½ grains from each one and pocket it as seigniorage? Or will it deal in this fashion only with the $29,000,000 belonging to itself? In the latter case, what will be the legal-tender value of the present silver dollar of 412½ grains? Will it be one dollar, or something over and above that? And is it possible that anybody can seriously think of putting our standard of value, the measure of all our debits and credits, contracts, undertakings, bargains, and sales, at the discretion of a foreign country? We observe that no provision is made in the bill for the contingency of France closing her mint again, or changing her ratio. As she changed her ratio twenty-seven times in the space of two centuries, it would surely be wise to take that chance into our reckoning.

Senator Hale made a rather serious mistake the other day when singing the praises of reciprocity in the Senate. He was pointing to the increase in our exports of flour to Cuba, as one of the great blessings brought about by the Spanish treaty, whereupon he was asked when that treaty took effect. He admitted that he did not know, but he did not let a little thing like that disconcert him, and went on with his discourse. As a matter of fact, the reduced duties on flour did not take effect until January 1, yet it is somewhat curious to observe that a considerable increase in our exports of flour to Cuba did, in fact, take place in the last six months of 1891, even under the old duty which the *Tribune* asserted to be practically prohibitory. Thus, the exports in all of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, were of a value of but $591,886, while in the next six months alone they amounted to $406,205, before a cent was taken off the duty. In December 34,316 barrels were exported to Cuba—more than in any two of the preceding eighteen months. These facts seem to indicate that the duties and the treaty have not had so much to do with the matter as supposed, but that we have in the recent gains in exports a part of the general extraordinary shipments of breadstuffs abroad. The returns for January show still greater exports of flour to Cuba, and we have no doubt that both our exporters and the Cuban consumer will be substantially aided by the lowered duties; but there is little sense in making reciprocity account for everything that happens, including our enormous crops and exportable surplus. An examination of the sta-

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tistics of our exports of flour to Brazil, where the reciprocity treaty has run longer, will show that there, too, natural causes have not ceased to operate in presence of the miracles of reciprocity.

The good effects of the system of promotion for merit, as demonstrated by examination, are already visible in the Post-office Department, where it was instituted last July. There is a marked diminution of petty irregularities, and a corresponding increase in the quantity and quality of the work performed. Each clerk now feels that his advancement depends entirely upon himself, and the man of ability no longer fears that one of inferior merit will be more quickly advanced because the latter has an "influence." A large number of promotion examinations has been held, the greatest stress being laid upon the office work, and the questions being especially framed for each examination and with particular reference to each body of clerks examined. The system has also been extended to other branches of the Department, and the system of promotion for merit now applies to the Railway Mail Service as well as to every post-office where there are fifty or more employees. Each railway postal clerk with a desire for transfer to the more congenial duties in the Department at Washington, and every clerk with similar ambitions in each of the large city post-offices, is now making a record upon which will depend his chances for this transfer. This record is kept up from day to day, and the transfers are made quarterly. The Postmaster-General is much impressed by the effect thus produced upon the large body of people who see a way for their advancement.

Senator Quay is as frank and open in his methods as Senator Hill. He says of the Pennsylvania delegation, which he is now "packing" for personal use in the National Republican Convention, that it will not be committed to any candidate, but will go to Minneapolis as a "Quay delegation," and that when he gets on the ground with it he will look the field over, and see what to do with his men. The idea that the delegation should in any sense represent the wishes of the Republican voters of Pennsylvania, he would probably regard as a joke. The Republican party in Pennsylvania exists primarily for the benefit of Quay, as in former times it existed for the benefit of Simon Cameron. It would be a decided novelty for the State to have in a national Republican convention a delegation which was not in the market, controlled by one man, and for sale to the highest bidder—that is, to the candidate who will give the best terms to the owner of the delegation.

Masked behind what is outwardly the ignoble collapse of the Connecticut Legislature is in reality a most vital step towards a constitutional change in that State. For many years and up to recently the Democratic leaders have skulked and cringed in fear that the "little towns" would resent any practical measures aimed at a revision of the ancient organic law. But a few months ago the party made its first advance by enlarging the delegations of the large towns and cities in its own State conventions; and the Democratic Senate, just before it adjourned last Friday, went further and took up a bill for a constitutional convention. But for filibustering and the weariness of the Senate from the long deadlock, the bill would have been passed, as a test vote showed. As it is, the bill has been referred to a committee which is almost certain to report the measure favorably on the 2d of next May, and its passage will put the Republican House in the extremely awkward dilemma of answering to the people for a failure of the reform, or accepting it to the injury of the party's selfish interest, now bulwarked by the "rotten-borough" Constitution.

It does not seem possible that the Democratic Legislature of New Jersey will take the risk of passing any bill this winter to make disreputable horse-racing and betting on such racing less offensive in the eye of the law than it now is. It is true that there is a great deal of "politics" behind the racing scandals in New Jersey; that leading officers of Hudson County are interested in the Guttenburg track; that the judicial machinery of that county has been used to protect the gamblers, and that Gov. Abbett has deemed it expedient, as an ambitious politician, to hob-nob socially with the same disreputable crowd. But all this is less difficult to bring about than a yea-and-nay vote in a Legislature in favor of a bill giving legal sanction to gambling and gamblers. Many a rural legislator who will quietly tuck a ten-dollar bill into his pocket and vote as the giver asks him to on a corporation measure that his constituents do not understand, will refuse to incur the home censure that he knows will be visited upon him if he votes for a measure that is against good morals. As the Democrats have a majority of 11 in the Senate and 24 in the Assembly, they will, as a party, have to assume the responsibility for any racing and pool-selling laws that may be enacted this winter, even if a Republican is put forward as the introducer of the bills.

Oxford has given the world a great many exhibitions of religious panic, and the excitement caused by the proposal of some of Cardinal Newman's friends to erect a statue to his memory within the grounds of that Church of England stronghold is only the latest. It serves to recall, however, the similar artificial stir caused by one of the earliest efforts made to unmask Newman and his friends in the beginning of the "Oxford Movement." This was the plan to erect a memorial to the heroes of the English Reformation—Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer—whose work and opinions were the pet aversion of the Tractarians. They naturally held aloof from the plan to build the Martyrs' Memorial, and thereby gave ground for fresh suspicion that they were Romanists at heart—which at the time they were as far as possible from being. If the proposition were now to set up a statue to Newman as a man of genius whose name is indissolubly linked with Oxford, there could not be much objection to it; but the attempt to give a specially religious significance to the memorial in his honor was enough to defeat the whole project, besides inviting comparisons which his friends ought to be the last to suggest. The influence of his austere character and fidelity to conviction will long be great, but the opinions for which he battled and upon which he staked his life were so hopelessly out of touch with the modern world, even with modern Oxford, that one sees how Carlyle could assert of him that he had not the intellect of a moderate-sized rabbit. The Oxford of 'Essays and Reviews,' and abolished tests, and enthusiasm for German thought, would be as shocking to Newman as would the sight of Darwin's tomb in Westminster Abbey.

The Anarchistic outbreaks in Spain are probably only sporadic, though many Spaniards are recalling the work of the Black Hand under Alphonso XII., and fearing that the present disturbances imply a reorganization of that society. But the better opinion seems to be that a certain amount of floating Socialistic doctrine, combined with the extraordinary series of calamities which Spain has suffered during the past year, has been enough to lead to the semi-organized attempts at plundering which have passed themselves off as uprisings of Anarchists. There can be no question that the condition of the average Spanish laborer is a hard one. A Spanish correspondent of the *Journal des Débats*, writing of the very province where the recent disorders and executions occurred, not long ago detailed the low wages and hard treatment of the agricultural laborers, and showed how open they were to the Anarchistic propaganda. In the north of Spain, on the other hand, the striking miners avow their aim to bring about a "social revolution"; and in their zeal and strong organization and enlistment of women in the cause, they recall the beginnings and spirit of the revolution of 1868, which brought about the downfall of Isabella and her methods of government. But there appears to be no general sympathy with the movement, and the Government can count upon the coöperation of all political parties in putting down the agitators with a rough hand.

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"HARMONY."

WE observe that there is a disposition, which even such an opponent of Hill as the *World* seems disposed to encourage, to "harmonize the party" by coming to some sort of terms with the Hill faction. Now, the only portion of Hill's following which is united, coherent, and corporate, so to speak, and capable of being negotiated with and of giving and receiving rings of harmony, is Tammany Hall. It will be noticed that wherever Hill goes at this trying crisis in his career, his companions, counsellors, and comforters are the Tammany chiefs. At his conference on Saturday night in this city, the Tammany "Honorables" occupied the chief places. There were the Hon. Richard Croker, the Hon. Bourke Cockran, the Hon. T. F. Gilroy, the Hon. James Martin, the Hon. Frank Fitzgerald, the Right Hon. Thomas F. Grady, and so on. This has been the only class of persons he has ever been in the habit of seeing on his visits to this city. The leaders of his delegation at Chicago will undoubtedly be Tammany men, and the Hon. Bourke Cockran will in all probability be the spokesman who will present his name. His policy at the Convention will doubtless be one of intimidation, and the Tammany vote will be the weapon he will use in trying to have his way. There is no doubt, too, that this weapon can be easily made to look formidable, for it consists of a solid mass of about 120,000, which acts as an army, under command, and on which no speeches, or documents, or other similar instruments of persuasion can make the smallest impression.

As a general rule a political organization in a free country, although it may, and indeed must, have leaders, nevertheless has to be led in the way it would go. The members do not surrender their wills and consciences to their chiefs. They reserve to themselves the power of deciding what their objective point shall be, and give their leaders no power but the power of deciding how they shall reach it. The Tammany Association is something very different. Although a political association, there is really no politics in it. The Hon. Cockran's famous question, "What is there in this for Tammany?" did not mean, "Does this proposal furnish Tammany with the means of embodying in legislation or administration some favorite idea about public policy?" It meant, "How much can Tammany get out of this in cash or other valuable consideration?" The interest Tammany takes in Federal politics is always really very languid. None of the Honbles. knows or cares much about Federal questions, such as taxation, or currency, or foreign relations, or army, or navy. Twice in the history of the Association—the first time under Tweed and now under Hill—the leaders have had faint hopes of being able to enter into the Federal arena by getting one of their "pals" into the Presidency, but this ambition was roused solely by the chance it offered of controlling Federal offices in this State and city. They have come nearer to it now under Hill than ever before, for Croker has actually been able to dictate the appointment of the doorkeeper of the House of Representatives. He has doubtless smacked his lips a good deal over this morsel as a foretaste of good things to come.

This fact—that the following of the Tammany Quartet is a dumb, blind, conscienceless crowd, which can be led in any direction, without open discussion or explanation—is one which all harmonizers have to bear in mind, for it makes all compacts with the Honbles. worthless. No matter what promises they may make openly on the platform, they can break them secretly, and have done so in two memorable instances. Moreover, the weight of their disciplined force in a Presidential election is always overrated. When the people of the State are really roused, Tammany, formidable as it appears in peaceful times, counts for very little. In 1876, John Kelly, the then Boss of the organization, went to the Convention at St. Louis as the open and rabid opponent of Mr. Tilden's nomination, and distributed a hostile circular among the delegates, signed by a considerable number of respectable and representative Democrats of the city and State, and fought the Democratic candidate vigorously at the election. Tilden nevertheless carried the State by a majority of 33,000. In 1880 the same Kelly went to the Convention as the enthusiastic supporter of Gen. Hancock. Kelly made a speech, in which he informed the Convention that "there could be no doubt as to what the result would be in this State in November," just as the Honble. Cockran will doubtless do if Hill should be nominated next June. Garfield carried the State by 21,000 majority. In 1884 this same Kelly, supported by two Honbles. still extant, Cockran and Grady, went to the Convention at Chicago to oppose Mr. Cleveland, and did oppose him to the end. Cleveland carried the State by a small majority. In 1888 there was no formal opposition to Cleveland's renomination from Tammany or any other quarter. "Harmony" prevailed right and left, and yet Harrison carried the State by 14,000 majority, and Hill was elected Governor by 19,000.

The moral of all this is plain. Harmony with Tammany is not sure to do any good; discord with Tammany is not sure to do any harm. To make concessions to Tammany for the sake of its support is something even worse than buying a pig in a poke. It is alienating that shifting, uncertain, independent vote which, partly Democratic, partly Republican, so sways from side to side as to make political prophecy in this State worthless. But it is quite certain that whatever Tammany wants will be something to disgust, in a greater or less degree, the 33,000, or the 21,000, or the 14,000 voters who, in this State, as experience shows, cast the vote of the State at Presidential elections. It must not be left out of account, too, that Tammany has not, since Tweed's day, been so much discredited in the eyes of the country as it is to-day. The present Tammany Honbles. have hardly a respectable Democrat on their side. Hill's supporters and backers are largely of the semi-criminal class. Any one who looks at the signatures to the anti-Tilden circular which Kelly carried to St. Louis in 1876 will see at a glance that it would be impossible for Croker to obtain any names of corresponding weight or significance to-day.

OUR NATIONAL OBSERVATORY.

FOR the past five or six years our navy has been building a great observatory, and has finally got it about done. It will have cost something in excess of $800,000—nearly double the amount expended in constructing any of the great European institutions of like character. It is situated on a hill in the northwestern part of Washington, where "the atmospheric conditions are, perhaps, slightly better" than they were at the old site—at least, such is the testimony of the most distinguished astronomer of the Naval Observatory; but this advantage is offset by the very massiveness of the pile itself. If there is any one thing which modern manipulation of astronomical instruments has proved more conclusively than another, it is that working observatories should be built with an absolute minimum of material. Iron or steel, canvas and wood, are demonstrably unsurpassed. Progressive astronomers the world over have repeatedly testified to this, as witness the new observatories at Cambridge, Nice, Greenwich, Paris, the Cape of Good Hope, and elsewhere. Nor does one need to be a professional stargazer to see why large masses of any compact material in or near an observing-room are strongly objectionable, particularly in summer; the simple fact being that heat, radiating from them in the early part of the night, when the instruments are most used, produces those annoying atmospheric effects known as irregular refraction and bad definition. Nature wages incessant war upon the investigator; he can hope to win only by unremitting endeavor to circumvent her. Hence the constant aim of the working astronomer must be the minutest avoidance of all such perturbing conditions. But our navy's astronomers, paying little attention to all this, drew up specifications for their grand new observatory requiring masonry enough for a State capitol. Every extra load of brick and stone has helped to impair the desirability of the site. The great telescope, among the largest in the world, requires the steadiest atmosphere if one would fully utilize its extraordinary power; but even that splendid instrument is housed in quarters of solid masonry, where it is entirely safe to say that nearly all the summer observations made with it must hereafter be relatively inferior to the winter, because the immediate surrounding

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atmosphere will be getting favorable for the best vision only about the time the observer will ordinarily have finished his work and gone home to bed.

One might discuss the instruments *seriatim* only to find little that is more hopeful; but this would involve too great technicality, and it is more to our present purpose to pass on to the management itself. Although an acknowledged scientific institution, the Naval Observatory has had no scientific head, no great astronomical problem to work upon, no expert supervision, no concerted plan of astronomical investigation. In the early history of the institution, no star-place could be completely determined without the use of two separate instruments and two observers instead of one. But for years, instead of coöperating, each observer seems to have worked away on his own list of stars, quite independently of what the other might be doing. At another time the "Superintendent" ambitiously blocked out a programme of observations to include nothing less than the determination of the magnitude, color, and accurate position of every star in the heavens within optical reach of the instruments! He was going to

> ". . . make a stir,
> Like a sage astronomer."

But as he had made no estimate of the time it would take to complete so enormous a piece of work, his venture necessarily ended in ignominious failure. The lack of organized effort at the Observatory is well illustrated by what took place some years afterwards, on the eve of a very important event, which four astronomers of the Observatory undertook to record. One, being preoccupied, did not find out until it was too late that the heat of the sun had broken his shade-glass; another trusted a treacherous clock-motion to carry his telescope, and so failed; the third, omitting to note whether his telescope was armed with a direct or an inverting eye-piece, was much chagrined to find out afterwards that he had missed the phenomenon completely, because it had been inconsiderate enough to take place on the side of the sun just opposite to that on which he had been expectantly gazing; while the fourth got no observation, for some reason or other, and prudently withheld all explanation of the circumstances. Divided responsibility was of course no responsibility. It is fair to presume that a competent head of the institution, invested with sole responsibility, would have made sure in sufficient season that the instruments were in working condition, and his corps of astronomers in some sort of training for the simpler types of observation.

Illustrations of this sort might easily be multiplied indefinitely. They show better than argument the folly of putting a man in charge of work that he knows nothing about. No official enterprise, the world over, is conducted in this inconsequent manner, and a half-century seems long enough for even a government to find out the fallacy of it. For a long period of years, says a prominent authority in these matters, the operations at the Naval Observatory were "creditable to no one but the one or two astronomers by whom all the observations of value were made." Another well-known astronomer, who has had excellent opportunities to judge, likens the Naval Observatory to "an astronomical mob, sometimes successful in obtaining the most brilliant results by individual prowess, but always lacking in coördination of work, and wasteful of effort." The principles governing naval seniority and advancement have repeatedly been shown to be utterly inapplicable to the needs of the Observatory service; and the authority just quoted remarks further, and with no small grain of truth, that "placidity and longevity are the stepping-stones to material success, which no zeal, no eminence of acquirement, can hasten, and no laziness and incompetence delay." To form some idea of things as they are now, it is only necessary to quote from a recent report of the Superintendent, in which he says that "the issuing of the annual volumes of the Observatory has been for years falling further and further behind, until now publication is five years behind the observations, and the amount of work done has been growing less and less."

What relation this Government institution, if left to itself, would sustain to the future progress of astronomy may be gathered from its supineness in the past with regard to stellar photography. Astronomers in Paris and elsewhere, taking the initiative, have achieved results of the highest importance, and have paved the way for solid progress in that identical branch of astronomy which Government observatories are maintained for. All the while this has been going on abroad, a pair of photographic instruments of the very best type for beginning such work, and which had cost the Government large sums of money, have been lying idle at our Observatory. Indeed, if any one has ever taken such a thing as a star-photograph at the Observatory, no Superintendent has ever mentioned the fact in his report. In this most significant development of recent astronomy, our national institution can now only commit itself to the rôle of a follower, when it had every facility for constituting itself the leader. Again, the chief European governments have systematically encouraged for years that delicate research known as "the spectroscopic determination of the motion of stars in the line of sight." No one at the Naval Observatory has ever made a single observation of this type; Congress has never been asked for an appropriation to enable the purchase of the necessary apparatus; indeed, it is not known that the Observatory possesses a spectroscope.

But the present issue is, what shall be done with the Government buildings, telescopes, and astronomers — a celestial "plant" which the mass of the people doubtless think is a credit to the nation? Evidently the Observatory and its management are incapable of reform from within, and so the astronomers of the country at large have undertaken the task. At their instance a bill was introduced into the House on January 18, and into the Senate the day after, with the hearty support of the Navy Department, and it will without doubt become a law. It provides a more perfect organization for the Observatory, cast in the general mould of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. In the first place, the institution is hereafter to be known as "The United States National Observatory," but without detachment from the Navy Department. A Director is to be appointed by the President, who shall be a "practical astronomer of eminent abilities and professional experience," to receive a salary of $5,000; and he is to have a chief assistant, also a skilled astronomer, with a salary of $3,600, who may act as Director during a temporary vacancy in the office of his chief. Further, the bill provides for a Board of Visitors, to consist of the two aforesaid astronomers and "three additional persons of scientific attainments, and not otherwise in the employ of the Government, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Navy," and serve without salary. But it does not appear that this Board has anything more than merely advisory functions. Apparently, also, certain wholesome changes are to be wrought in the present astronomical body which can scarcely fail to better the institution and its standing. The corps of so-called "professors of mathematics in the navy"—of whom some are eminent for their knowledge of this science, while others have attained a certain distinction for their ignorance of it—are to be no longer eligible for observatory duty so soon as the present members of the corps have either died, resigned, or been retired. The new Director will, accordingly, have the opportunity of assembling a corps of active and harmonious workers (and he ought to have the power to remove them when for any reason they prove unsatisfactory); observations will probably be computed, and perhaps published, before the time has gone by when they would have been of some use; and the Observatory, having gradually sloughed off a pottering and contentious staff, may begin to address itself to the serious business of concerted action in astronomical research.

THE READING'S LEASES.

ALTHOUGH the general outline of the combination of coal roads has been made public, there yet remains a word to be said about its lawfulness and effect. It has been calculated that the advance in the prices of stocks of the roads interested, including the Lackawanna, has amounted to forty millions, a very handsome profit to all holders. Whether the actual results when realized will be found to sustain so

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large an increase in stock values may be doubted. A large increase in the retail price of coal to consumers is out of the question from every point of view, and indeed those in the confidence of the new owners assert that this truth is so well known to them that nothing of the kind is contemplated. At the same time one at all familiar with present conditions in the mining, carrying, and selling of anthracite can easily see wherein economies can be introduced which will result in important savings.

The Reading, Lehigh Valley, New Jersey Central, and Lackawanna Roads in 1891 carried over 70 per cent. of the large output of that year. Controlling so large a proportion of the tonnage, the combination can fill the orders of the different States and cities from the mines nearest to the markets and send the coal by the most direct route. Steadiness in mining and cheapness in the transportation can both be helped thereby. Another point not hitherto noticed is that a great advance has been made, because of this new combination, towards clearing up the trunk-line situation. The Lehigh Valley and the Lackawanna have been thorns in the side of the large through carriers for a long time. These coal roads, earning their profits from the carriage of anthracite, have felt that any additional grain from Buffalo or immigrant travel from New York was so much clear gain to them, even if taken at lower rates than quoted by the older routes. Thus the competition of the Lehigh Valley and the Lackawanna often disturbed the rates and consequently the net earnings of the other roads which depended upon the through traffic. Until now there has seemed no way to check the unequal rivalry short of a war of exhaustion, in which the coal-carrying lines would have had the great advantage of an established business unaffected by any lowering of the tariffs on wheat, corn, live stock, or immigrants.

The change in the general attitude of the Lackawanna Road is particularly welcome to railroad and coal-men. That company was led by aggressive and able men, who, naturally enough, were satisfied with the independent policy of their own road, and so cared but little for the general situation. It has always been supposed that control of the Lackawanna's stock could not be purchased, and it is said that until but little more than a week ago the officers of the company were firm in that belief. The fact that hereafter the Lackawanna will turn its policy towards the general good of the coal trade and of the trunk lines of railroads is one of the important effects growing out of the situation. As regards the lease of the Lehigh Valley to the Reading, the question is often asked by what means a strong corporation was induced to surrender control to a weaker. This is not strictly the situation; it should be regarded rather as an attempt to unite the several interests in the most feasible way, of which the lease in question was but a part. Of course the probability of getting larger dividends through increased traffic, even without the Reading guarantee, had great weight with the owners of the majority of Lehigh Valley stock. It should also be borne in mind that the Lehigh Valley has within a year or two spent many millions of dollars for terminals on New York harbor and connecting lines, and that, in view of the condition of the investment market, it is possible that the road has yet a large floating debt awaiting funding. If so, the bankers might have used the fact in argument.

The legality of the leases has been questioned. Mr. A. J. Cassatt of the Pennsylvania is outspoken in his view that if the lease of the Beach Creek Railroad to the Pennsylvania or the Northern Central was illegal, the lease of the Lehigh Valley to the Reading must be equally so. Mr. Johnson, the counsel for the combination, rests his case, apparently, upon the ground that, unlike the first instance, the two companies draw their tonnage from different coal regions, the Schuylkill and the Lehigh, and are therefore not competing or parallel roads within the meaning of the Pennsylvania statute. This is an interpretation of the law which can be said to be really correct or not only after a judicial decision; but at least it is an ingenious defence of the legality of the leases. All combinations tend towards an enrichment of themselves at the expense of the public, but in the present case we may give the coal roads the benefit of a present doubt upon that point, for, as the *Financial Chronicle* justly observes, "In these days of National and State Commissions, there can be no monopoly to fear, and with that danger removed the people are every way advantaged by the prosperity of our carriers."

"THE EXCLUSIVES."

A REPORTER for the *Herald* has interviewed Mr. Ward McAllister to some purpose, for he has extracted from him the somewhat startling announcement that the "Four Hundred" are to be reduced to one hundred and fifty. We believe he has also made known in other quarters that these one hundred and fifty are to be called "The Exclusives." This important change, which in other ages and countries would certainly have put the Government in peril, is, he confesses, the direct outcome of an innovation of his own known as "The Dinner Dance." "The Dinner Dance" was conceived by him, and means a dinner of thirty at one of five houses, followed by a dance at another of the five, in regular order; and thirty multiplied by five gives one hundred and fifty, as any child may see. But he predicts that the arrangement cannot last. Why not? it may be asked. Because similar "noted and brilliant functions," got up by the Princess Metternich in Paris and at Almack's in London, lasted only a few years. This reasoning is, however, unworthy of a mind like Mr. McAllister's. Like causes, it is true, produce like effects, but he himself admits, further on, that the causes here are not alike, and therefore, although the effects may be similar in both cases, evidently there are in this branch of sociology effects which may have one or more causes each. The Princess of Metternich's "functions" in Paris, we know from history, ceased only because the Princess herself left Paris, and the goings on at "The Royal Almacks" in London, as General Choke called it in 'Martin Chuzzlewit,' ceased because the lady patronesses died or got tired of the work.

But, as Mr. McAllister shows, the breakdown of the system in New York will come from the fact that "there are people of wealth coming here every year who have the right to join our society." "These dinners are delightful," he says, "but they can't last—the competition for places will be too great." There is the whole explanation in a nutshell. Mr. McAllister, like a clever social analyst, recognizes the forces which really settle these things in New York. The Ins may cut down their numbers as much as they please, and close the gates on themselves, but the Outs are always on the march in overwhelming numbers to attack the place, and it has to surrender when summoned. The One Hundred and Fifty will accordingly, as sure as there is a sun in the sky, have to become Four Hundred again in the near future, and in a future not very remote it may be One Thousand. "The people of wealth" are not to be trifled with when they come to New York "to get into society." Mr. McAllister himself could not withstand them if he would. One of the strongest proofs of his capacity as a leader is to be found in his constant recognition of the facts of the situation. He is a thoroughly modern man, who sees all things exactly as they are. He does not allow his Society to become a fools' paradise. He makes and keeps it elastic and receptive, and yet he is not embittered, as a smaller man might be, against a really exclusive Society, like that of royalty, by the treatment he received in Queen Victoria's kitchen when dinner was announced.

There is only one way, as Mr. McAllister knows as well as we do, to restrain these demands for admission from the outside which threaten to break down the One Hundred and Fifty, and eventually the Four Hundred, and that is to set up other barriers than wealth and a knowledge of table service and of etiquette. Happily, nothing is plainer than that this knowledge is spreading just now with a rapidity which nobody could even ten years ago have foreseen. The agencies by which it is spread multiply every year. The number of dinners given by people outside the Four Hundred is increasingly great, owing simply to the growth of wealth. There are probably five hundred in New York at this season, every evening, of which Mr. McAllister never hears, and those who attend them pay an attention to

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the cookery, and the order of courses, and the proper use of different knives, forks, and glasses, which, when coupled with American keenness of perception, is sure in the course of a single winter to qualify probably two or three hundred to dine even with Mr. McAllister himself without making a single mistake. Then there are many newspapers, both here and elsewhere, which furnish weekly answers to questions on difficult points of etiquette and table manners, which are doing an immense work of education. Mr. McAllister is himself one of the most potent of these agencies. His recent work on Society, and his remarkable series of articles in the *World*, have been of inestimable benefit to tens of thousands who are preparing themselves for a brilliant social existence in New York. How many, too, are getting day by day, under the tuition of Pinard and Sherry, a knowledge of the art of giving dinners, which, though not comparable with that of Mr. McAllister, of course, at least enables them to set up strong claims to his eventual recognition.

This rapid work of multiplication, not only in New York but in other cities, constitutes a danger to the Exclusives for which Mr. McAllister suggests no remedy, so far as we know, in any of his writings. It ought to show him how injudicious it is to rely on wealth alone as a qualification even for admission to the Society of the One Hundred and Fifty, which he says now includes "all that is brightest and best in America." Does he not see that if all that is necessary to be one of "the brightest and best" in America is to buy and furnish a house and give "Dinner Dances" in it, the circle must be indefinitely enlarged, and its claim to exclusiveness ruined from garret to cellar, through the mere material development of the country? He occasionally, we admit, alludes faintly to "manners," as things which will do an Exclusive no harm, but makes in none of his works any mention of education. This, and the correct use of the local language, are, no doubt, required in most countries as a qualification for a life among "the brightest and best," and they perhaps ought to be required here. But if this test should be adopted as a barrier against mere wealth, the question would at once arise, Whose manners should be the standard? Who should furnish the model in a Society which furnishes no traditional standard, and which is engaged in a process of parthenogenesis, so to speak? We suppose the answer which most people would make to this would be: "Why, Mr. McAllister's manners, of course."

Far be it from us to say that this ought not to furnish an easy solution for a knotty problem. Who, indeed, is the American gentleman if it be not Mr. McAllister? But, nevertheless, with all due respect be it said, nothing is less likely than that he would be universally or even generally accepted as a model, for a reason (not peculiar to America) which makes a man who sets up for a model of manners in all democratic societies a little ridiculous. No good work as such a model can be done in any society which has no court or aristocracy to define the term "gentleman." In addition to this, in our country the question of State pride would come into play, and we should have Society torn by the conflicting claims of model gentlemen from various States. Controversies, fatal to the maintenance of any one general standard, would arise over such questions as the way to eat fish, the proper side of the spoon to use in taking up the soup, the proper amount of water in the finger-bowls, or the number of wines which should be served at "a really first-class entertainment." On these subjects Mr. McAllister, like all really strong men, has doubtless strong opinions of his own; but other States would not accept them, and there would be revolts against his authority even here in New York. In fact, if we are rightly informed, his dictum on the proper place of roast leg of mutton in a *dîner à la Russe* has already caused serious discontent among his followers. It is easy to see how these discontents would become aggravated were an attempt made to treat his rules as supremely authoritative all over the country.

In fact, the question of the proper mode of admitting people to Society in this city, in spite of Mr. McAllister's learned labors, seems at present, to all intents and purposes incapable of settlement. At all events, we have no suggestion to offer. All we can do is to point out the dangers and difficulties of the present system. Abler hands must save Society, if it can be saved. But we do not hesitate to say that were Mr. McAllister (*absit omen!*) taken from us, the One Hundred and Fifty, and the Four Hundred, too, would bitterly regret not having availed themselves of his vast knowledge and ripe experience and sound judgment to define for all coming time the personal qualities and amount of real and personal estate entitling a man or woman to be one of "America's brightest and best."

WAS COTTON MATHER A FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY?

In most biographical notices of Cotton Mather, that eminent man is said to have been a Fellow of the Royal Society. In some of such notices, the statement is emphasized by describing him as the first native-born American who attained to that honor. According to his son, there were many in New England who were "so foolish as to doubt, nay, to deny, his right to that title." Cotton Mather's name did not and does not appear in any list of the Fellows of the Society. Becoming himself uneasy upon the point, he inquired of the Secretary to the Royal Society whether he really was a Fellow. In reply, he was informed that he had been elected a Fellow both by the Council and by the general body of Fellows. That his name did not appear in the published list was due, he was told, to the fact that, being in America, he was unable to subscribe personally to the orders of the Society, from which foreigners were dispensed, but not British subjects. Years went by, and still Cotton Mather felt uncertain of his position. On May 21, 1723, he wrote the subjoined letter to Dr. Jurin, then Secretary of the Royal Society:

"Syr: You are better known to me than I am to you; and I congratulate unto myself, as well as unto the world, the felicity of your succession in the office of *Secretary* to the *Royal Society*. But in order to a mutual better knowledge, I owe you, & must now give you, some very short account of myself; more particularly, with relation to that Illustrious Body, whereof I hoped, I had the Honour of being esteemed a Member. Having the pleasure of some correspondence with your excellent predecessor Mr. Waller, I did communicate unto him (and unto my valuable Dr. Woodward) a great number of American, and philosophical, curiosities; with an intimation of my purpose to continue the communications. Those Gentlemen put the, as unexpected as undeserved, respect upon me, of proposing me for a Member of the *Royal Society*; and they both wrote unto me, that I was chosen accordingly both by the Council and Body of the Society, on the Anniversary Day for such election in the year 1713.—Adding that the only Reason of my not having my name in the *printed* list of the *Society*, was because of my being beyond-Sea and yet a Natural Born Subject, & so not capable of being inserted among the gentlemen of other Nations.

"Your Secretary also, Dr. Halley in the *philosophical Transactions* of 1714 printed my name, with an F.R.S. annexed unto it. Mr. Petiver did the like, in his Naturæ Collectanea; and in his letters to me, he had these words, 'Your election succeeded without opposition, and you were elected after the usual method of Balloting. The reason of your being out of the *printed list*, is your not being personally here, to subscribe to the orders that should be tendered you'; to which he added co: gratulations & complements not proper to be by my pen transcribed.

"A Distinguished, & a diminutive crue of odd people here, when they could find no other darts to throw at me, imagined their not finding my name on the printed list of the *Royal Society*, would enable them to detect me of an imposture for affixing an F.R.S. unto my name, on some just occasions for it. And an infamous fellow, whose name is John Checkley, a sorry *Toryman* (that yet had the impudence to write as a Divine) wrote a letter full of scandalous invectives against me, which was publickly read in the *Royal Society*. This wretched man, ambitious to do the part of a *Divine*, printed here some Rapsodies, to prove, *that the God whom* K. William, *and the christians of* New England *have worshipped*, is the D— l —. A young and a bright kinsman of mine, bestowed such castigations on the Blasphemer that I became thereupon the object of his implacable revenge. But of this matter, I gave Dr. Woodward a more full account, a year and a half ago: Which because I know not whether ever he received it, I now repeat a little of; Relying to your justice, if any further indignity of this Nature should be offered me. But, that I may not lay aside any of the meek, patient, humble disposition with which I should address you on this occasion, I shall keep such Terms, as I used unto my Doctor when he had what he required of me upon it.

"I should never have presumed upon affixing an F. R. S. unto my poor unworthy name, had I not thought, that my Honourable masters, would have taxed me as guilty of some ingratitude unto them for their unmerited favours, if I had always declined it.

"The many treatises (many more than three hundred) which Heaven has allowed & assisted me to publish, (in the midst of many other constant & heavy labours) on various arguments, and in various Dead as well as Living Languages, added unto some other circumstances needless to be mentioned, had procured me from some Europæan Universities, without my seeking in the least measure for them, the *Testimonies of the highest* respect that they could show to the meanest of men, and among the rest a *Diploma* for the *Doctorate in Theology*. Upon this I was under some temptation unto the vanity of Thinking that it was possible the *Royal Society*, also might esteem it no dis-

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grace, to permit my name among their members. Especially, when my remittances to their Treasury, might for number (however not for value) be æqual to what they might receive of some other members whose correspondence they cast a kind Aspect upon. For the embellishments wherewith I studied usually, (after the manner of the German Ephemerides) to make my dry & dull stories a little more palatable to men of erudition, some of your own members, as well as Monsr Tournefort helped me to some apology.

"But if after all, it be the pleasure of those Honourable persons, who compose or govern the *Royal Society*, that I should lay asside my pretensions to be at all related unto that illustrious Body, upon the least signification of it by your pen, it shall be dutifully complied withal. I will only continue to take the leave of still communicating Annually to you (as long as I live) what *Curiosa Americana* I can become the possessor of. For (my Jewish Rabbis having taught me, to *love the work*, and have *little regard unto the Rabbinate*) it is not the Title, but the service that is the Heighth, & indeed the whole, of my ambition.

"As a Token of my purposes this way, and as an earnest of a much greater variety, which I propose to send you by another hand, about a Fortnight hence, I now present you with a tedious account of sentiments & occurrents relating to a subject, about which I perceive you are sollicitous to have the exactest informations. At this time, I add no more, but with hearty prayers, to Heaven, that you may be continued long as a great Blessing to the world I subscribe

"Syr
"Your most affectionate
"Friend and Servant
"COTTON MATHER

"BOSTON N. ENGLAND
"May 21 1723.
"Dr. Jurin."

The answer to the above letter should be interesting. There is, however, no record of it in the archives of the Royal Society. Under the circumstances, it will be well to inquire how far the proceedings of the Society establish the fact of Cotton Mather's connection with it.

For the election of Fellows, the ordinary procedure observed by the Royal Society is this: The names are first submitted to the Council of the Society. After candidates have by the Council been chosen for submission at a general meeting of Fellows, their names are brought before such meeting. Here the election is made, and two-thirds of the votes are necessary to secure it.

In the Journal of the Society there is the following entry, under date of July 23, 1713:

"A letter drawn up by Mr. Waller for Mr. Cotton Mather at Boston in New England was read; giving an account of the receipt of his letter and his manuscript, containing his several observations on Natural subjects, with an invitation to a future correspondence; which was ordered to be sent.

"Mr. Waller proposed the same gentleman as a candidate, according to his desire mentioned in his said letter; which was referred to the next Council."

The Minutes of the Council of July 27, 1713, record that "Mr. Cotton Mather was proposed, balloted for, and approved to be a Member of the Society." A diligent search among the records of the Society has, however, failed to find that Cotton Mather's name was ever submitted to the general body of Fellows. Would it be an undue surmise to suspect that Cotton Mather's mistaken zeal in the witchcraft heresy stood in the way of his obtaining a two-thirds vote, and that, the Council finding this the case, did not risk a rejection?

If Cotton Mather may not be reckoned a duly elected Fellow of the Royal Society, who, then, of Americans born, is to be reckoned the earliest Fellow of that distinguished body? On the 11th of March, 1714, the Rev. Mr. William Brattle, minister of the Church at Cambridge, New England, was elected a Fellow by the general body of members. On November the 21st, "Sir Hans Sloane proposed Mr. Elihu Yale, Executor to Dr. Thomas Paget, as a candidate, which was referred to the next Council." Yale was elected on the 30th of November, 1717, and Paul Dudley on the 2d of November, 1721. In a List of Fellows of the Royal Society, to be found among the Rawlinson MSS. in the Bodleian (*C.* 437), the names of Brattle, (1713–14), Yale (1717), and Dudley (1721) are given, but not the name of Cotton Mather.

A NEW SHAKSPERE?

LONDON, January 28, 1892.

THE one event of interest in the theatrical world of London is the special matinée. At the regular performance the rule at present, as almost always, is music-hall fooling, called pantomime, gorgeous spectacle advertised as Shakspere, and sentimental melodrama which passes for farce, comedy, or tragedy, according to the traditions of the theatre in which it is played. But fortunately a few managers and actors of ambition long to test their talents in other than conventional lines, and then they give a matinée. To introduce an experiment into the evening bill is to court failure. Not much more than a year ago a loud blast of trumpets heralded the innovation at the Haymarket, where Mr. Beerbohm Tree proposed to devote his Monday evenings to the production of new or original plays. He brought out "Beau Austin"; he revived his old successful melodramas; and it is now already months since his famous Monday evenings were brought to an end for ever more. The matinée remains the ambitious actor's only chance.

For long this ambition carried him—or her, for as frequently as not the would-be innovator is an actress—to Ibsen. It was as inevitable as the courting of the unbecoming by the dress-reformer. In rapid succession we had "The Doll's House," "Rosmersholm," "Hedda Gabler," until a performance of "The Lady from the Sea," ridiculous in its inadequacy, resulted in a healthy reaction, and we have heard no more of Ibsen since. Next Zola had his turn—Zola, who, like Ibsen, calls for actors of the first order, and usually falls to the mercy of the third-rate. Only within the last few days have I seen the effort made to convert his "Thérèse Raquin" into an Adelphi melodrama; unsuccessfully, however, for the worst acting cannot destroy the power of the play. But Zola on the stage, even in London, is not an innovation. M. Antoine and his company from the Théâtre Libre have shown Londoners the strength of the French naturalist as a dramatist. Something entirely novel was wanted—there was a demand for a new dramatic sensation; and to Mr. Tree belongs the credit of having been first in the field in the endeavor to supply it. His novelty was Maeterlinck's "L'Intruse," which in its English version, as "The Intruder," was the great feature of a special matinée, held at the Haymarket yesterday for the benefit of Mrs. Bernard Beere.

Maurice Maeterlinck, as every one now knows, is the young Belgian poet who has lately sprung into notoriety. He has published a volume of poems, 'Serres Chaudes,' which are but amusing French parodies of Walt Whitman, the tragedy of "La Princesse Maleine," and two short plays, "L'Intruse" and "Les Aveugles." Until last spring his notoriety had scarcely spread beyond a small circle of admirers among the *décadents* and *symbolistes* of Paris, but in May "L'Intruse" was given at the Vaudeville matinée for Verlaine, and the next day, I think it was, Octave Mirbeau came out with an eloquent article, in which the play was extolled as the greatest and most daring of modern times, and Maeterlinck himself called the Belgian Shakspere. Mallarmé was the next to lead the chorus of his praise, and the Belgian poet's reputation was made for better or worse. In England, where his work has been translated and published, he has been less fortunate in his admirers. Mr. Hall Caine is the most eloquent; and while the author of the "Bondman" and the "Scapegoat" may be an authority on melodrama, his criticism of tragedy and poetry can hardly be accepted seriously.

Maeterlinck has been sadly handicapped by the injudicious name bestowed upon him by his French friends. To live up to his reputation as Belgian Shakspere is no light matter, nor does his work as yet give reasonable foundation for it. His verse, if verse it can be called, is often foolish simply because in it he is so unwilling to be himself, so eager to be Walt Whitman. His "Princesse Maleine," as a whole, must be counted a failure, though there are scenes in it of unquestioned greatness. But its very failure as a whole and its partial success explain at once his limitations and his strength. His force lies in his power to imagine the horror of certain situations, and to express it by the most realistic methods. To sustain this horror, to prevent the realistic interpretation from falling into the commonplace, through five long acts, is an impossibility. In the blackest tragedy, in moments of intense fear and dread, his people speak in every-day language, but language which, because of his wonderful skill in the use of words, becomes in their mouths musical and rhythmical. The murderess does not harangue her victim. The grief-stricken husband does not pour forth his sorrow in a long monologue. Each talks simply, as, the chances are, in real life each would under the same circumstances. In the conversation of several people, the natural repetitions which occur are made to tell, like the refrain in a ballad. But, once the interest falters, once the horror no longer holds you, then the dialogue dwindles into mere Ollendorff. Take a page from the "Princesse Maleine"—it is but one of many:

"Je vois le phare."
"Vous voyez le phare?"
"Oui, je crois que c'est le phare."
"Mais alors vous devez voir la ville."
"Je ne vois pas la ville."
"Vous ne voyez pas la ville?"
"Je ne vois pas la ville."
"Vous ne voyez pas le beffroi?"
"Non."

And yet this same original method of ordering the dialogues, in the scene where the King and Queen strangle *Maleine*, adds tremendously to its tragedy. Now, neither "L'Intruse" nor "Les Aveugles" is much longer than this one scene, and therefore in each, but more especially in the former, you feel only the master. It is in his short plays that Maeterlinck is great.

It is a pity that Mr. Beerbohm Tree has not the ability or even the courage of his intentions, else he would be what he is called, the finest English actor of the day. It was a daring experiment to produce "L'Intruse" upon the English stage. The story is briefly this: A woman after a dangerous confinement lies ill in a rear room. Her father, husband, brother, and three daughters sit together, as they have sat for so many long evenings, that strange restraint upon them which serious illness in a house always brings with it. The old man, himself on the verge of the grave, and blind, is more sensitive than the others to the approach of death. In every sound that breaks the stillness, in every silence, he hears

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the Intruder, so that at last he communicates his vague terrors to those waiting with him, though they seek to reassure him, and the horror grows upon them, as it does upon the reader, until the door into the sick-room opens and a Sister of Mercy comes in and, as is the Belgian custom, announces the death of the woman by signing herself with the sign of the cross. Silently they pass to the chamber of death, all except the old man, who gropes about helplessly in his darkness. It is the modern *Danse Macabre*.

The entire effect throughout is produced by the short, abrupt dialogue, with its constant repetitions, which, in the trivial scenes of "La Princesse Maleine," seems like parody. There is no movement, except when one of the young girls goes to the window to see who is in the garden, to the door to look for the visitor whose steps they hear on the stairs, to another room to watch the baby sleeping there, or when the father tries the lamp which is gradually going out.

And now what does Mr. Tree do with this strange play, powerful in its subtlety? Exactly what might be expected of him. He is manager as well as actor. He knows the sort of thing the gods, whether they sit in gallery or stalls, like; he knows how he has made his biggest successes before. He gets himself up admirably, so that as soon as the curtain is raised you hear the customary murmur of approval throughout the house. He turns the old man into the hero of melodrama—advanced in years, it is true—just as he has already turned *Hamlet* and *Falstaff* and *Beau Austin*. He makes all he can of what little chance for action there is, and he cuts down the dialogue recklessly: even when he wants to try an artistic experiment, his audience must not be bored. The result is, that in the Haymarket version "The Intruder" was not only without effect, but was absolutely meaningless, except to those who had already read it. There were some who had, for interest in Maeterlinck filled at least a few seats, even if admiration for Mrs. Bernard Beere crowded the house. But the great majority, when the Sister of Mercy made the sign of the cross, wondered what it was all about, and fondly hoped that the ghost they expected would still appear. To-day the papers have been calling "The Intruder" silly, and imbecile, and idiotic, and the usual adjectives which form the stock-in-trade of the English critic. Of Maeterlinck's "L'Intruse," however, they are qualified to say nothing; it has not yet been seen in England. Nevertheless, Maeterlinck will arrive, and we should prepare to relinquish Ibsen in his favor. N. N.

Correspondence.

AID FOR STARVING RUSSIANS.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: When you suggested that it would be better to cable money in aid of the Russian sufferers than to send ships with supplies, I was much impressed, as were doubtless many of your readers. I should like to tell you some of the reasons why the Iowa Auxiliary to the Red Cross has decided to send to Russia a cargo of corn rather than money. In the first place, we get free transportation from here to the famine district, and go all the way under the auspices of the American Red Cross, whose field agent, Dr. Hubbell, accompanies the expedition. We not only buy our corn here, where it is cheapest, but get large gifts from farmers who would not feel able to give money.

According to Russian estimates, it will cost $5 to keep one person alive from now until next August. With our free transportation we can do it for $2.10. We hope to send a shipload of shelled corn in three weeks or less, and shall send inexpensive mills, with men to put them up, or else the Red Cross will send millers who will show the Russians how to grind the corn properly with their own machinery; and the services of Col. Murphy, who is now introducing corn meal into Europe, have been tendered the Red Cross by Secretary Rusk, so that proper instruction in cooking is insured.

This movement in Iowa is really remarkable and very well organized, although of course there are always persons who are so provincial as to imagine that the world is no larger than the area covered by the United States, and that a vessel leaving our ports immediately falls off into nowhere, or who think that corrupt Russian officials are going to eat an inordinate amount of hasty pudding, kindly prepared for them by our Red Cross cooks. * * *

Des Moines, Feb. 2, 1892.

[As to the suggestion of sending mills and millers, and the use of corn meal, both mills and millers are an unnecessary expense. There are plenty of windmills in the Russian villages for grinding rye and wheat; and as a Russian peasant will "learn as much in three months as a lower-class Englishman will in three years," according to the testimony of an Englishman who had had workmen of both nationalities under him, it is not likely that they will require anything beyond their native wits to discover how to put the corn into shape for eating, especially when prompted by hunger, as at present. Cooking the corn properly is another matter. During the Irish famine, when America sent over corn, the people did not cook it sufficiently, and the natural result was dysentery, and so on. Our opinion that it is unnecessary to send an invoice of people to distribute the contributions in money and breadstuffs, is confirmed by the *European Messenger*, one of the most prominent and trustworthy of Russian monthlies. It says on the subject of the numerous persons who have volunteered to assist in the relief work, that they would be of much less use than in an epidemic. Any one can nurse a sick person, whether he has ever seen the patient before or not; but knowledge of local conditions, and even of persons, is required in this case. The deduction is, that a volunteer would be of use only after an apprenticeship of at least two weeks, and that when assisted by the experience and advice of residents on the spot who are qualified as to the points mentioned. It will be noticed that, in this case, no allowance is made for ignorance of the Russian language and the general problems of peasant existence, which would handicap foreigners more than the uninitiated imagine.

In view of the fact that Philadelphia has decided to send a ship with the breadstuffs of the Northwest's contributing, it is not worth while to enter further into the general question as to the comparative merits of money contributions and contributions in kind. If it were still desirable to discuss the matter, we should maintain our stand on the firm ground that, if sufficient rye flour, such as the peasants are accustomed to use for their sour black bread, could be bought on the spot, or anywhere on the other side of the ocean, it would be not only cheaper, but more nutritious, pound for pound, than the wheat flour sent from America. As soon as navigation opens on the rivers Kama and Volga, direct access can be had to the worst-stricken districts, with grain from the abundant crops of Siberia, through Perm, where the railway terminates on the European side of the Ural Mountains. The recent cablegram which attributed to Gen. Annenkoff the wild scheme of setting up these communications by blowing up the ice in the Volga, displays a faint comprehension of the point here raised, on the part of the correspondent. But Gen. Annenkoff knows that the Neva, at St. Petersburg, which is far swifter in current than the Volga, cannot be kept open in winter, and he can never have dreamed of such a device. He would have used the river as a great natural avenue, as the Neva is used, assuming that he could have cleared it and have kept it clear of the tremendous snows, the heaviest seen for a generation at least, which have been complicating the situation along the Volga this winter. The problem now is, to provision the districts which are dependent upon carts and sledges, before the spring thaws set in in April, and then to hasten grain down the Kama and Volga and their branches when navigation opens, at the middle or last of April. One of the most pressing needs of the peasants is grain to sow in April, so that they may have a crop next summer. An eminently practical gift would be wheat and rye—especially rye—for seed. Corn will not grow. It should be sent promptly, to allow of time for its distribution.

We may take this opportunity to refute the statements, which have been too frequently repeated by our press, to the effect that the Government took no notice of the situation until it was too late to help. By a private letter from a large landed proprietor in one of the suffering Volga provinces, dated August 28 last, we are informed that the general Government had already appropriated 5,000,000 rubles for that province, and that 50 steamers and 200 barks, all laden with grain for the sufferers, were stuck fast in the shallows of the river, above Kazan, the water being unusually low, so that all steamers arrived at their landings not hours, but days, behind time.

Another misconception, founded on imperfect knowledge of geography and lack of logical reasoning, which we take this opportunity to correct, is that which attributes this great famine to "the expulsion of the Jews from Russia." The geographical error is much on a level with

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mixing up the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts. The Jewish "Pale of Settlement," in the southwest provinces of the Empire, is not suffering from the famine to any extent. The Russian cultivators of the soil in the far east and southeast are the sufferers, and the Jews are altogether absent, or far less numerous there than elsewhere. The logical error consists in imagining that the penniless Jews, who have left the non-stricken western provinces voluntarily, and who arrive here in such a condition that even the well-known liberality of the Hebrew Benevolent Societies is unable to feed them, so that these societies are compelled to apply (a rare case) to American charity, could have had any money to lend to the peasants had they remained at home, a thousand versts from the scene of action. It is absurd.

We quote further from the correspondent referred to above, as to the causes of the famine:

"What the newspapers write about the bad crops is quite true [this refutes the falsehood that the press has ever been silenced on the subject]. In all the governments along the shores of the Volga, the hot, dry summer has destroyed nearly all the grain. In most places there was nothing to be gathered, so that the peasants had to sit at home and mourn over their state. Happily, our district has suffered less; they could gather rye enough in sufficient quantity to have seed for next year and some left for food, though they say that most of the peasants will have food but till December. The spring grain, like wheat and oats, has all perished, so that our poor horses and cows will have but meagre food during the winter. The Zemstvo [the local assembly] is taking measures to help the peasants; it buys rye in the other governments and has it brought over here, and gives it to the peasants. The prices for grain and vegetables have risen excessively. Rye costs now one ruble twenty-five kopeks for forty pounds; potatoes cost one ruble fifty kopeks for forty pounds. [A ruble cannot be worth more than forty to forty-five cents, with so poor a harvest; nominally it is seventy-five cents; generally it is fifty cents. This is about three times the normal price of rye.] It is thought that in winter they will rise still higher. What will the poor people do? There are already a quantity of beggars, and some hire themselves as workmen without wages, merely for the sake of food. The great heats have occasioned low water in the Volga [with the results which we have mentioned above]. One day it is so hot that one can scarcely breathe; in the night the thermometer shows 20° Réaumur [about 78° Fahrenheit]. The next day it is cold, and in the night there is a strong frost which has spoiled the vegetables; and then it is hot again."

When we add to these atmospheric conditions the fact that the peasants are too poor—not too improvident—to lay by grain or money for a rainy day, or to buy the costly agricultural implements which would enable them to cultivate all their land (instead of being forced to let one-third of it lie fallow), and to cultivate it in the proper manner, surely we have abundant and rational explanation of the terrible famine, without ranting over its being "a judgment on Russia" because Jews do or do not dwell within her limits, or because she owns Siberia. The landed proprietor from whose letter we have quoted is not only providing for his own villages, but is feeding about 200 strange beggars a day. This answers still another accusation—that the Russians are not helping as they should in this crisis. —Ed. Nation.]

SILVER SOUP KITCHENS.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: The free-coinage-of-silver advocates say that their scheme will "make money plenty" among the people and relieve poverty; upon this statement, in fact, they base their whole argument. Now, I am one of the impecunious, in spite of persistent industry to the utmost of my ability. I am anxious to escape this condition, and want to fill my purse in any honest way. Will you be so good as to explain this benevolent promise of the free-coinage men? Is, possibly, any plan for free distribution included in the scheme? When the Government coins all the silver presented, and the dollars are piled up in mountains of wealth in the offices of the silver-mining companies preparatory to the relief of the poverty of the waiting millions, how is the transfer to be effected? Fearing lest I may be overlooked in this grand scheme of national philanthropy, I anxiously ask for information in the name of the vast majority of voters, who are, like myself,

Impecunious.

St. Louis, February 10, 1892.

HILL AND HARRISON.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: How far Gov. Hill is responsible for the defeat of Cleveland in 1888 is a question which now very much agitates the Democratic mind. While I assert that he is wholly to blame for it, I acquit him altogether of any charge or suspicion that he traded votes for himself with the friends of Harrison. Hill got more votes for Governor than the Cleveland electors because there were more saloon Republicans opposed to Warner Miller and high license than "swallow-tail" Democrats scratching Hill. But there was another "deal," by which the Harrison electors got in the city of New York about 9,000 more votes than their party strength, and Cleveland just as many less. The equivalent was given by the Republicans in votes taken from Erhardt and turned over to Grant, by which the latter became Mayor. But for such a deal, Erhardt would have been elected, and New York city would have been saved the misrule of Tammany, and the world would never have heard anything about the McKinley Bill, or Porter's Census, or Patrick Egan.

This "deal" between Tammany and the local agents of Matt Quay could not have been carried out if David B. Hill had, in the winter of 1888, signed Saxton's Australian Ballot Bill. Such a law would have made deals impossible; and because it would render them impossible, Hill vetoed it. Kentucky is a good enough Democratic State, and it was the first to enact the Australian ballot, pure and simple, without pasters or any other conveniences for carrying out deals. Indiana enacted this law, in order to stop the judicious distribution of "soap" to "blocks of five," by a partisan Democratic majority. Hill vetoed a similar law to prevent the smashing of the machine; hence the Grant-Quay deal; hence four years of Ben Harrison. Q. E. D.—Yours truly,

L. N. D.

Louisville, Ky., February 11, 1892.

THE PIONEER BLACK REGIMENT.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: Excuse me if I call attention to an inadvertence in the notice of Capt. Emilio's history of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts, contained in your last issue. It is there stated: "It was the pioneer organization of black troops, and had a just preëminence on that account." A glance at the very first page of the book reviewed will show that the author makes no such claim, but himself calls attention to the fact that black regiments had been organized in Louisiana, South Carolina, and Kansas in the year 1862, and adds (p. 2): "After these regiments next came, in order of organization, the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts, which was the first raised in the Northern States east of the Mississippi River." This is a guarded and careful statement, and is followed on the same page by the original order from the War Department, giving Gov. Andrew authority to enlist negroes, and dated January 26, 1863—about five months later than the orders under which the earlier regiments had been recruited.

T. W. Higginson.

Cambridge, Mass., February 12, 1892.

[We had, of course, in mind the restricted section defined by Captain Emilio.—Ed. Nation.]

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: In the *Nation* of February 11 I find a notice of 'A Brave Black Regiment,' in which it is stated that "Mr. Stanton's authorization to Gov. Andrew to raise colored regiments preceded the act of Congress on the subject which fixed the pay at a lower rate than for white men." It is also asserted that the recruiting officers offered the same pay to the colored soldiers as was offered to white soldiers in good faith, but without authority of law. Presumably the writer of the review made proper investigation before thus committing himself, and there would be nothing surprising if my memory of occurrences which took place thirty years ago was faulty; but I have a strong enough impression in regard to the matter to make it worth while for me to submit it to you and to suggest further investigation.

Maj. George L. Stearns and I were the recruiting officers alluded to, and, as I remember it, our promises, which, of course, were authorized by Gov. Andrew, were based upon the fact that there was no law in existence by which any regularly enlisted soldier, white or black, was entitled to more or to less pay than any other regularly enlisted soldier of the same grade. In other words, the laws governing the payment of United States troops were uniform in their application. The act of Congress to which it is probable the *Nation* reviewer refers, regulated the pay, not of soldiers, but of *laborers* engaged and employed in the army. The refusal by the Government for eighteen months to pay the colored troops their just due was not owing to a nice regard for law, but must be attributed to the contempt for the rights of the colored man which then prevailed, and which always was and is to-day a national characteristic.

The employment of colored soldiers marks an era in the history of our civil war which, so far as I know, has not yet received proper consideration, and it is to be hoped that some competent historian will yet do justice to its significance.—Yours very truly,

Richard P. Hallowell.

Boston, February 13, 1892.

[The subject is a complicated one, and we can only refer those interested to the debates in the Senate begun on February 3, 1864, when Mr. Wilson introduced his bill to equalize the pay of soldiers in the United States Army. Mr. Sumner contended, and seemed to prove, that some

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men, at least, of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts subscribed to an enlistment specifically under the original statute of July 22, 1861, which made no distinction of color, though doubtless contemplating only whites. The statute of July 17, 1862, authorizing the employment of "persons of African descent," and fixing their pay at $10, was ambiguously worded, and left plenty of ground for hair-splitting as to the nature of "any military or naval service for which they may be found competent" in addition to "constructing entrenchments, . . . or any other labor." Senator Wilson said that "some of the best lawyers in the country . . . think the distinction in the act of 1862 applies to men working for the Government, not soldiers"; but a good lawyer and good Republican like Senator Fessenden thought otherwise, and he could point to his ineffectual effort at the time to put the colored soldiers on a level with the white. We were in error in saying that Secretary Stanton's authorization to Gov. Andrew *preceded* the statute of 1862. It bore date, as Col. Higginson points out above, January 26, 1863, and curiously testifies to the Government's timidity with regard to colored enlistments by being general in terms, and only incidentally conceding that the volunteers in question "may include persons of African descent, organized into separate corps."—Ed. Nation.]

GEOMETRY NOT MATHEMATICS.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: A dissatisfaction with the method in which geometry is at present taught finds frequent expression, a case in point being the review of Mr. Halsted's translation of Lobachevsky in the last number of the *Nation*, and, by a peculiar coincidence, in the communication by Mr. Stille on "Science in America," in the same number. In the one case, the author desires to have geometry attacked by the beginner from the point of view of perspective; in the other, criticism is not aimed at the elementary presentation of the subject, but a spirit of discontent is visible which expresses itself in the demand that more students should go beyond the dull elements and breathe the purer air of the "modern geometry" of Jacob Steiner.

Does not the difficulty lie deeper than is suggested by either of these two writers? There seems to be a fundamental misconception of the nature of geometry in the minds not merely of the general public, but also of almost every teacher of the subject. "Mathematics is the science which draws necessary conclusions," so wrote the late Prof. Benjamin Peirce in 1870, and no clearer and more accurate definition could be imagined; and yet it has produced but little effect as yet on students of geometry. Geometry is the simplest of the natural sciences to which, owing to its simplicity, mathematics (*i. e.*, the methods of formal logic, either with or without the assistance of symbols) has been applied with such wonderful success, and which of late years has so richly repaid its debts to mathematics in the hands of Riemann, Clebsch, and others still living. We should laugh at the idea of teaching the mathematical theory of electricity before the student knows in a qualitative way what electricity is, either by a description of the phenomena or, better still, by actual laboratory contact with them. Why should not the same rule apply to geometry? Even then logic need not be entirely discarded, but let it assist the learner, not clog his progress. It is not a perfectly safe guide, as history tells us, even in the hands of a master, and the learner is almost as safe in trusting to his "common sense" as to his own unaided deductions.

The training of the logical faculty is, moreover, of far less vital importance than the development of the mind which results from this first real draught from the cup of science, which strengthens a healthy imagination, and should even yield an æsthetic enjoyment. If we could lead the student first to see the truth of a proposition, and then, perhaps much later, to prove it, we might hope in time to have mathematicians in America. For every mathematical discovery is made in this way, let the mathematician conceal his footprints as he will; it must come as an intuition, and the man to whom it has thus come is its discoverer, even though he never succeed in finding a proof.

Of course there will still remain innumerable points of detail to consider. The wonderful geometric developments of the last hundred years should not be completely ignored; "projective" rather than metrical properties of figures might be brought to the front; but this will all regulate itself when once it is really understood that geometry is not mathematics, but is a physical science to which mathematics may be applied. Maxime Bôcher.

Cambridge, February 13, 1892.

AN HISTORIAN'S SLIPS.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: Lovers of chess will be surprised to learn on page 435, vol. v., of Schouler's 'History of the United States of America under the Constitution' that (1859) "Paul Morphy, the *English* chess-player, was one of the latest foreign celebrities who catered to our entertainment."

May I also point out that "one Barney" (a favorite way with Mr. Schouler of expressing contempt), by whose hand Mr. Monroe sent to the French Convention an American flag (vol. i., p. 319), and "who, in the name of the American people, tendered it with some inflammatory remarks of his own, prompted by the recollection of a personal outrage he had borne from the British fleet off the West Indies," was the same individual as "Commodore Barney, our renowned privateer officer" (vol. iv., p. 408)? I add the "inflammatory remarks" of Captain Barney, styled by Monroe "an officer of distinguished merit, who has rendered us great services by sea, in the course of *our* Revolution." They are taken from a transcript of the proceedings of the French Convention, September 25, 1794, to be found in an appendix to 'A Biographical Memoir of the late Commodore Joshua Barney,' by Mary Barney (Boston: Gray & Bowen, 1832) :

Speech of Capt. Barney, bearer of the colors.

Citizen President: Having been directed by the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to present to the National Convention the flag demanded [asked] of him, the flag under the auspices of which I have had the honor to fight against our common enemy during the war which has assured liberty and independence, I discharge the duty with most lively satisfaction, and deliver it to you. Henceforth, suspended on the side of that of the French republic, it will become the symbols of the union which subsists between the two nations, and last, I hope, as long as the freedom which they have so bravely acquired and so wisely consolidated.

Respectfully, Basil Sollers.

Baltimore, February 8, 1892.

THE TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN 'CRANFORD.'

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: The note from "A. B. N." on "A Typographical Error in 'Cranford'" is interesting, and there is fortunately evidence to show that his happy emendation is really a restoration of the author's text. 'Cranford' appeared piecemeal in *Household Words*, and a reference to the number for May 7, 1853, will show that it was not *loin*, but, as "A. B. N." supposes, *lion*—the pudding originally "made in most wonderful representation of a lion *couchant* that ever was moulded," and served up a second day—"a little of the cold lion sliced and fried." Through how many editions this printer's error—turning *lion* into *loin*—has run, I do not know; but it is found in the only two at the moment accessible, recent ones published by Macmillans and Smith & Elder, respectively.—Yours truly,

William E. A. Axon.

Manchester, England, January 27, 1892.

THE WASHINGTON PEDIGREE.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: I have found a letter from George Washington to a nephew, Col. William Augustine Washington (a son of the General's brother Augustine), dated October 3, 1798, from which one or two facts of interest may be drawn. An extract is as follows:

"I thank you for the old documents you sent me respecting the family of our ancestors, but I am possessed of papers which prove beyond a doubt, that of the two brothers who emigrated to this country in the year 1657, during the troubles of that day, that John Washington, from whom we are descended, was the eldest. The pedigree from him I have, and, I believe, very correct; but the descendants of Lawrence, in a regular course, I have not been able to trace. All those of our name in and about Chotank are from the latter. John was the grandfather of my father, and uncle and great-grandfather to Warren [Warner] and me. He left two sons, Lawrence and John, the former, who was the eldest, was the father of my father, Uncle and Aunt Willis. Mrs. Hayward must have been a daughter of the *first Lawrence*, and thence becomes the cousin of the second Lawrence and John."

In the *Nation* of October 15, 1891, was printed a letter from John Washington (a son of the immigrant and of the Chotank branch) in which he mentions an Aunt Howard who died in 1697 or 1698. Mr. Waters suggested that this aunt was Martha Washington, a sister of the immigrants, who had been assisted by her brother to remove to Virginia. Is it possible that Aunt Howard and Mrs. Hayward are one and the same person? The objection to putting her where Washington suggests is that the immigrant John had only one daughter, who died when very young. The wife of John (a widow) had three daughters when he married her, names unknown, and it may be that Mrs. Hayward was one of them. John, the son of John (the immigrant), had but one daughter, whom he lost early. So it is reasonable to decide that if Mrs. Hayward was of the Chotank branch, she belongs to the generation previous to that assigned her by Washington.

One bit of evidence may assist a determination of the matter. The will of John, the immigrant, was proved in 1677, and in it provision was made for Martha's removal to Vir-

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ginia. A patent for 30,000 acres of land in Stafford County was issued in 1689 to a Nicholas Hayward. It was in Stafford County that the "cuz. John Washington, Sen:" mentioned in the will of Lawrence, the grandfather of the President, lived. It does not appear to be a very wild guess that Martha may have become Mrs. Hayward after reaching this country, even though she may have been well on in years. In a new country it is proverbial that age does not handicap a woman in matrimonial ventures.

The Chotank branch of the Washingtons is dealt with in a very remarkable work that has just come from the press—'Virginia Genealogies,' by Rev. Horace Edwin Hayden. All the painstaking and anxious research of this writer leaves many points in doubt, though the results add much to our information. He prints the will of a Henry Washington, who was undoubtedly of the Chotank Washingtons, and conjectures that he was a son of John and grandson of Lawrence, the immigrant. This conjecture is fairly supported by Mr. Hayden's arguments, and, if it could be fully established, would be a decided step towards solving the line of that branch of the family.

WORTHINGTON C. FORD.

BROOKLYN, February 9, 1892.

Notes.

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS have in press 'Money, Silver, and Finance,' by J. Howard Cowperthwait, a work in criticism of our existing national policy. The same firm announce 'The Genesis of the Art Forms; An Essay in Comparative Æsthetics,' by Prof. George L. Raymond of Princeton; 'Methods of Industrial Remuneration,' by David F. Schloss; 'The Test Pronouncer,' by W. H. P. Phyfe; 'Summer Fallow,' poems by Charles Buxton Going; 'Moods and Memories,' poems by Madison Cawein; and 'Pratt Portraits: Studies of a New England Family,' by Anna Fuller.

'Cigarette Papers,' by Joseph Hatton; 'The Idealist,' by Henry T. King; and 'His Great Self,' a new novel by Marion Harland, are announced by J. B. Lippincott Co.

The Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott's Lowell Institute lectures on 'The Evolution of Christianity' will be published, after revision, in book form by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., who announce also 'The Rationale of Mesmerism,' by A. P. Sinnett; 'A Golden Gossip,' by Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney; and 'Roger Hunt,' a new novel by Mrs. Celia P. Woolley.

Mr. Morris Phillips, editor of the *Home Journal*, will publish early next month 'Abroad and at Home,' a guide-book to summer and winter resorts, hotels, restaurants, etc., on both sides of the water.

John Wiley & Sons announce a text-book of 'Theory and Practice in the Designing of Modern Framed Structures,' by Prof. J. B. Johnson, C. W. Bryan, and F. E. Turneaure.

The *Academy* announces that Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. H. S. Wilkinson (author of 'The Brain of an Army') are jointly preparing a book on the 'Defences of England,' which will be published at an early date by Macmillan & Co.

From the same source we learn that Prof. George J. Romanes has sent to press an elaborate work on evolution, upon which he has been long engaged, and part of which he read last spring, as lectures, at the Royal Institution. The book is to be called 'Darwin, and after Darwin,' and it will be published in two volumes by the Messrs. Longman. The same publishers have in press the Autobiography of Isaac Williams. Isaac Williams (he was always called by his full name) was one of the early Tractarians at Oxford, and, besides his contributions to the series of "Tracts for the Times," was the author of several volumes of verse — 'The Baptistery,' 'The Cathedral,' 'The Christian Scholar,' and portions of the 'Lyra Apostolica.' He also wrote two of the volumes of the 'Plain Sermons.' He was, quite as much as Keble, the poet and the saint of the Movement. Newman paid him a touching tribute of love and esteem in his two dedications to him of 'The Church of the Fathers'—one being written before and the other after Newman left the English Church. The Autobiography now to appear will take its place at once beside Dean Church's memorials in the considerable and increasing library of *mémoires pour servir* which the future historian of the Oxford Movement will find ready to his hand. One may hope that it will contain a portrait of Isaac Williams's refined and beautiful face.

A batch of new editions comes to us from Macmillan, viz., F. Marion Crawford's 'Doctor Claudius,' Davidson and Benham's Life of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, now in its third edition, as is also the 'Oxford Movement,' by the late Dean Church, reduced in size and price. We may also mention here the 'Village Sermons' of the same ecclesiastic, and the new, revised, and greatly enlarged edition of Bishop Alexander's 'Leading Ideas of the Gospels.'

The chief illustrated serials that have figured in *Harper's Magazine* for the past year, the two bound volumes of which lie upon our table, are Mr. Besant's papers on historic London and Mr. Theodore Child's on present-day South America, with the Abbey-Lang series on Shakspere's comedies, and Mr. Schuyler's "Glimpses of Western Architecture." Two cases of literary resuscitation occur in Dickens's letters to Collins, and the Thackeray "Boudin" sketches. For the rest, there is the alternation of story and discussion, travel and biography, to the salient features of which we have called due attention in our monthly comments.

No epitome can do justice to the vast variety of topics touched upon by *Harper's Weekly* for 1891, and resort must be had to its own copious index to learn how wide a range is covered by its illustrations, and how complete a gallery of the year's notabilities is furnished by its portraits. Stories appear to be gaining in number over the record for previous volumes, while the page devoted to sport and athletics is a distinct innovation. Yet there is no lack of serious articles, and the editorial pages point as true as ever to the north of honest politics.

The gauds and marvels of woman's dress take up the customary amount of space, both in illustration and letterpress, in Vol. 24 of *Harper's Bazar*. What women shall do with themselves when once dressed is not forgotten by editors and contributors, and subscribers have a considerable amount of art, ancient and modern, served up to them in reproduction and description, while the volume embraces also two serial stories by Mr. Besant and Mr. Hardy—the latter's 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' being just now in the public's hands in book form.

The third of the little volumes in which Harper & Bros. have gathered specimen essays of the editorial departments of their Magazine is the most welcome, viz., Mr. Curtis's 'From the Easy Chair,' and is disappointing only because it is so very inadequate to the riches of light literature out of which it is drawn. It has been a frequently expressed wish that the less transitory of these bits of town talk should be collected, since they are quite unique in tone and method, and at the same time continue an old tradition of American letters; but this collection by no means answers our desires. Little enough is given, but even this serves to show how distinctly the Easy Chair, month after month, has been for a generation the elegant chronicle of affairs of taste in this city, relieved by the interest of a citizen in the things of the State and of humanity—strains of "a higher mood"; and the aging New Yorker will find the pleasures of memory spread before him on the page—the songs he used to hear, the prima donnas that have gone, the dinners now historical, the sights of the street long swallowed up by the northward flowing tide of business, the players and the lecturers that were "Planco consule," as the editor likes to say—Everett and Emerson, Thoreau and Phillips, and all the rest of the men and things that filled an hour in their time. It is this reminiscential quality that is most felt in this selection of essays that now exhale the unexpected odor of time past. In particular it is a book of this city, indigenous, with the unmistakable trade-mark of Manhattan. But let us hope this publication is no more than a trial of the public taste, for the Easy Chair cannot shrink to any such proportions as this. It might do in Lilliput, but not on our island.

Mr. Edmund Gosse has collected in a handsome volume, 'Gossip in a Library' (John W. Lovell), a series of brief essays, contributed to the *Independent*, upon the more rare or interesting books in his own library. The pieces are the merest gossamer of bibliography, allusion, and comment, and their subjects usually lack novelty. Camden and the 'Mirror for Magistrates,' Lady Winchelsea (whom Mr. Gosse seems to have found much as Swinburne found Jonson's 'Discoveries'), Beau Nash, "Peter Bell," Eliza Heywood, Farquhar, Pharamond, Moncrif, Donne's Funeral Sermon, and all the rest, except a few that "really were" nobodies, afford the author opportunity to say a baker's dozen of very obvious remarks on each topic before he skims away to his next bastard title. How often need we remind our London cousins that these, like the Abbey, are ours too? *Nec tam aversus*—do our cousins fancy that we haven't primers of our own? We have quite enough just as flimsy as this; for the dilettante is a native product, though not fully protected, it seems, from foreign competition.

A primer of information (such as we just referred to) of American manufacture comes to us under the title 'Wells of English' (Boston: Roberts Bros.). The author, Mr. Isaac Bassett Choate, quotes Principal Shairp to the effect that we should know not only great poets but minor writers, and then gives brief accounts of forty, from Thomas of Erceldoune to John Evelyn. The list includes Skelton, More, Wyatt, Surrey, Raleigh, Chapman, Greene, Daniel, Drayton, Marlowe, and other as well-known Elizabethans, Herrick, Walton, Fuller, Crashawe, Lovelace, and Marvell. Of these the author writes the oft-told story, and he fails to add to our knowledge of the obscurer names. What he sets down is unexceptionable save for its being the fruit, apparently, of a common delusion of the student that what is new in the learning will be new in the telling to others in a book. At the same time there can hardly be too many unpretentious volumes, such as this, of average information of the subject and fair taste in appreciation, to aid in

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the steady increase of the use of old literature by the library public.

'Four Lectures on Henrik Ibsen, dealing chiefly with his Metrical Works,' by Philip H. Wicksteed (Macmillan), treat of the vexed genius of the latest comer in "world-literature" with sincere admiration, and also, fortunately, with a certain restraint which makes the eulogistic criticism more acceptable. The subjects dealt with are the "Poems," "Brand," "Peter Gynt," and the "Social Plays." The strong personality of Ibsen is given full value in the analysis of the moral intention of these works; and the contradictions of life mirrored in them, the confusion of extreme ideals or formulas illustrated through them, the violent antipathies developed in Ibsen's nature by modern conditions, are all brought out plainly. The study is, therefore, one worth attending to, and the reservations made in conclusion are the more telling because of the enthusiasm shown. That Ibsen has felt deeply some acute phases of evil in society cannot be gainsaid, and what power he has proceeds from his realization of these; but that his reflection in respect to them is real wisdom, or that the form of imagination in which he embodies them is any part of the fine-art of literature—these are other matters. Some light on them, however, the reader may gain better from this little book than from any other that has fallen under our notice. The author is a devotee of the cult, but the points where doubt begins to insinuate itself are perceptible in his work, and hence he is usefully suggestive.

We have received from Frederick Keppel & Co. a large etching after the portrait of John Lothrop Motley, painted by Bisschop for the late Queen of Holland in 1872. At that time, as we are informed, the historian was the Queen's guest at her "House in the Wood" at The Hague, where the picture now is. The etching has been executed by a Dutch artist, Mr. Philip Zilcken, himself at one time private secretary to the Queen. These circumstances invest the present plate with much interest, and the likeness is in a broad way true to life, yet the face is the most disappointing part of the print, both in respect of solid execution and in interpretation of character. We cannot speak of the original canvas, and it may well be that it is chargeable with the defects we feel in the etching. If so, it would appear that Mr. Zilcken had no such personal acquaintance with Mr. Motley as would enable him to improve on the painting. The print is upon Holland paper and also upon vellum.

—The report of Brig.-Gen. Thomas Lincoln Casey, Chief of Engineers, showing the progress made during the year ending December 1, 1891, in the construction of the building for the Library of Congress, has been printed as Senate Miscellaneous Document No. 15 of Fifty-second Congress, First Session. The advancement indicated is very satisfactory. The front walls of the whole building have been carried up to the height of the second-story floor, and a great part of the inner or court walls has been built to a much greater height, while the iron-work and nearly all the brick and terracotta work of the second-story floor are in place. The various iron-work required for the interior has also been carried forward, including the novel book-stack invented by Superintendent B. R. Green, which is being put up in the north stack-room, and all the materials for the heating apparatus and steam power have been received and the greater part put in place. Two large folding-plates, taken from photographs, accompany the report and show the whole exterior walls of the vast building (471x340 feet) as they stood on December 1 last, thus enabling one to get some idea of how the largest and most imposing library structure in the world is going to look. The amount expended during the year was $823,711.52, leaving an unexpended balance of $810,515.57 to be used during the remainder of the fiscal year; while the contracts in force and minor indebtedness call for $1,059,045.54, and the estimated appropriation required to carry on the work to the end of the next fiscal year, June 30, 1893, is $1,035,000. The total appropriations since October 2, 1888, have been $2,450,000, and the total expenditures $1,639,484.43. The completion of the building is promised by January 1, 1897, provided funds are appropriated to the full amounts of the annual estimates submitted within the limit of total cost fixed by the Act of March 2, 1889, namely, $5,500,000, in addition to the appropriations made prior to that date. It is to be hoped that no false ideas of economy will prevent Congress from promptly making such appropriations as are necessary to carry on, without break, this work, which is of truly national importance.

—It must be seldom that a judicial opinion attains the dignity of an historical monograph, but this may fairly be predicated of Judge Nott's opinion, for the Court of Claims, in the case of the Western Cherokees vs. the United States, decided November 30, 1891. "In 1838," says Judge Nott, "the condition of the Cherokee people was this"—and he proceeds to give succinctly the shameful story of the removal of the eastern section of the tribe to the Indian Territory, and the curious antagonism which arose, under the leadership of John Ross, between the earlier emigrants and the later. For this chief Judge Nott expresses the greatest admiration, saying that his "intellectual successes deserve to be ranked among the extraordinary achievements of diplomacy if not of statesmanship. For eight years he had maintained a contest with both the Government and the State of Georgia in the field of intellectual resource—objecting, procrastinating, evading; sometimes invoking moral forces, sometimes foreshadowing forceful resistance; and again and again he had achieved the negative triumph of frustrating the emigration of his people. And it is not a trivial element of the case that for six years his resistance was effectual against the iron determination of Andrew Jackson." Kooweskowee's contention with the Western Cherokees in their new home was marked by the same qualities. Overthrown in Georgia, he asserted the integrity and unity of the Cherokee Nation, and by means of his larger contingent imposed his policy on the dismayed Western Cherokees in the Indian Territory, appropriating 14,000,000 acres of land purchased with their own money, and substituting one government for two, at the cost of a civil war, in which vengeance was visited on the unauthorized tribesmen who had concluded the treaty of New Echota (1835) that led to the removal from Georgia. The claim of the Western Cherokees for restitution has only now been adjudicated, but, though in their favor, not to the benefit of the claimants in the suit as trustees "to receive the money of those who have not appeared." They simply secure priority of payment as being the first to put in an appearance. The opinion is most interesting reading, both from the political and the legal point of view, and is set forth with great clearness and with the aid of documents.

—In the *Educational Review* for February, Mr. Arthur M. Comey presents some figures as to the number of students attending college in the United States now and in former years. The term college is used in a comprehensive sense, the line being drawn apparently at institutions which require no preparation in Latin for admission to their classical course. The title assumed by an institution, of course, goes for nothing, Mr. Comey having found one "university," empowered to confer degrees, whose freshman class is taught only arithmetic, geography, grammar, orthography, and penmanship, while Latin is begun in the junior year, Greek first taken up by seniors, and modern languages not studied at all. On this principle, students in preparatory departments in colleges have not been counted, nor are women included. These omissions are to enable a proper estimate to be formed of the increase of students following the higher learning, for, in the West and South, colleges have found it necessary to prepare their own students, and the proportion of those in the preparatory departments is nearly two-thirds of the whole. As to the omission of female students, Mr. Comey states that in 1850 there was but one co-educational college in the country, with only six women in attendance. But, for various reasons, "scientific" students are reckoned, although purely scientific schools are altogether disregarded. The only reason assigned for the latter omission is the singular one that it would have involved "large additions to tables already very extended." Promise is made, however, of later mention of the "results which would been brought about had they been included."

—The tables produced show the number of students now in attendance at the different colleges in the several States, the number by States, the number in proportion to the population of the States, the number per 100,000 of population by sections of the country, and the comparative increase of students and population since 1850. Where comparisons with population are involved, of course the untrustworthiness of the censuses of 1870 and 1890 must be reckoned with; but taking the returns as we have them, it seems that while there were 38 students per 100,000 of population in 1850, and the number was scarcely increased until 1880, it rose in the last decade to 50. The absolute increase was from 8,837 in 1850 to 31,516 in 1890. The figures showing the distribution by States and sections are to be read in the light of the fact that only 65 per cent. of the students at New England colleges reside in that region, more than 20 per cent. coming from the Middle States. The most striking result of the investigation is that, between 1880 and 1890, population increased 25 per cent., while the increase in the number of students exceeded 50 per cent.

—Count L. N. Tolstoi's latest book has been translated into French by M. E. Halperine-Kaminsky, under the title of 'L'Argent et le Travail,' and is just published by Marpon & Flammarion. It is a new chapter of its author's now familiar gospel: To give away money is to ruin the poor; money should be done away with; safety lies only in a country life supported by daily toil. The book is introduced by a letter to the translator from M. Émile Zola, which appeared in the *Figaro* of January 9. M. Zola disclaims any special fitness to speak as an expert of the main thesis of the book, which, in fact, he could hardly treat worthily in the narrow limits of a letter, but gives his impressions after reading it. He finds that Tolstoi has lost none of his great powers of observation

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and expression. He is still the powerful analyst, the profound psychologist, of 'War and Peace' and of 'Anna Karénina.' His descriptions of his hospital visits and of life among the poor, his tracing out of the roots of vanity and selfishness that underlie almsgiving, are as vivid and as subtle as anything that he has ever done. His sincerity, his enthusiasm, his unwavering faith are, more than attractive, they are seductive. They throw a spell over generous minds. Even Zola, whose chief traits do not seem to be those of such minds, feels it and bends to it. No doubt Tolstoi is right at bottom, he says; it is a beautiful dream, based on great truths, yet hopelessly impracticable. Tolstoi shows us the Promised Land, flowing with honey and milk, but there are no roads by which to reach it, and no bridges over the stream that divides us from it. He himself is ready to lead the exodus, and has, indeed, stripped himself for the journey. He urges it upon the world with a fervor and eloquence that are almost unparalleled. But no one moves, for no one knows where to plant the first footstep. It is a vast tribute to Tolstoi's greatness, and to the almost boundless influence that such faith and honesty and tenderness as his have upon men, that so unsympathetic and perhaps also so unspiritual a critic as M. Zola is should be moved to say of him: "Je suis un peu honteux de jouer ici le rôle de l'homme raisonnable."

NORTON'S TRANSLATION OF DANTE'S PURGATORY.

The Divine Comedy of Dante. Translated by Charles Eliot Norton. II. Purgatory. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1891.

In reviewing Mr. Norton's translation of Dante's 'Inferno,' we gave reasons for maintaining that the best version of a great epic like 'The Divine Comedy' must be a prose version, because no English metre can reproduce the *terza rima* of the original, and because, under any circumstances, the best metrical version must be a paraphrase. The only excuse for making a metrical translation is that it may reproduce the charm of the *form* of the original; but if it fail in this, and if it also give only a blurred presentation of the *substance*, it is necessarily inferior to a prose translation in which the substance at least is faithfully presented. We pointed out also that Dante, of all foreign classics, has a style so intense and vigorous that it suffers most from any paraphrasing. Dilute his unique qualities, as the metrical translator is forced to do, and they are no longer recognizable; but in a first-rate prose translation, like this of Mr. Norton's, you find them on every page. That the tendency among scholars has set strongly towards prose translations of the world's poetic masterpieces, cannot be denied; that it is a good tendency, we firmly believe. The development of the critical faculty in modern times has made us value exactness above all things. We want to know just what the great poet or the deep thinker said; and if we cannot read his own words, we are satisfied with nothing short of a precise rendering of his message. For, however much we may regret the loss of the beauty of his manner, we are compensated by the truthfulness of the translation. But, we must repeat, a literal prose translation must have literary quality in order to be permanent; it must be no mere college "pony," but endowed with those attributes which raise any original English work to the level of genuine literature. Such requirements we found Mr. Norton had fulfilled in his version of the 'Inferno.'

The 'Purgatorio' has already been twice translated into English prose—by the late W. S. Dugdale and by A. J. Butler—and as, in the case of the 'Inferno,' we showed wherein Mr. Norton excelled his chief competitor, Dr. John Carlyle, it will be necessary to compare his work with that of these translators of the second canticle. The most obvious quality of Dugdale's work is its readableness; it moves easily, smoothly, and seldom brings you to a halt before an obscure passage. If, however, you begin to suspect this fluency, and turn to the original, you find that the ease has been gained at the expense of exactness. Not only does Dugdale paraphrase freely, but he often uses commonplace words to translate the Dantesque prototypes. Take, for example, the following lines:

"A seder ci ponemmo ambedui,
Volti a levante, ond' eravam saliti;
Chè suole a riguardar giovare altrui" (iv. 52–4).

These Dugdale renders: "Here we sat down, our faces towards the east, from whence we had come up, since to look back on troubles surmounted is pleasant." The real meaning is, as Mr. Norton gives it: "There we both sat down, turning to the east, whence we had ascended, for to look back is wont to encourage one." Evidently Dugdale gains nothing here by unliteralness; but he leads us to suspect that, since he treats thus loosely a passage so simple as this, he will run too far astray when he is confronted by a really difficult passage. And this suspicion is frequently confirmed. To cite a single instance, typical of many, we turn to Canto vii., in which Dante, after describing the blossom-carpeted Valley of the Princes, says:

"Non avea pur natura ivi dipinto,
Ma di soavità di mille odori
Vi facea un incognito e indistinto" (vii., 79-81),

which Dugdale translates thus: "Nature had not been content with lavishing her multifarious hues, but with the sweetness of a thousand perfumes had produced there an indescribably delicious fragrance." Such expressions as "lavishing her multifarious hues," and "an indescribably delicious fragrance," might be found in one of Ouida's effusions; they are not, of course, Dantesque, nor do they give the descriptive quality of these particular lines, as will be seen by comparing them with Mr. Norton's version: "Nature had not only painted there, but with the sweetness of a thousand odors she made there one unknown and blended." This, at the first reading, may seem abrupt, but so is the original, and when reread the meaning becomes clear, and the very terseness adds to the suggestiveness of the description. It has always seemed to us that Homer's picture of Helen at the Scæan Gates ('Iliad,' iii. 155 *seq.*) surpasses all other descriptions of womanly beauty; yet he does not specify, as a modern would, he simply tells the *effect* of her beauty upon the old men chirping there like grasshoppers as she passed them. Dante, too, is master of the art of kindling the imagination by describing the effect rather than the cause; he knows when not to define because definition would impose limits and crudeness upon that the essence of whose charm is vagueness. Such a passage as that just quoted illustrates his method in this respect; Dugdale's paraphrase of it shows how completely he can fail in transmitting the spirit of Dante's work. It would be unfair to dismiss his translation if the two specimens we have drawn from it were exceptional, but they are not; from every page we might cull others to corroborate our statement that he sacrifices exactness for the sake of readableness. His work as a whole reminds us of a snow image of some masterly statue, after the sun has just begun to melt the snow, leaving but an indistinct and eroded effigy of the original.

In Mr. A. J. Butler Mr. Norton has a more serious competitor. Mr. Butler is more scholarly and more precise than Mr. Dugdale, and his version differs from Mr. Norton's chiefly in style. He states in his preface that he aims "at the production of a 'crib,' pure and simple," and that he has not attempted "an addition to English literature, but to aid beginners in understanding that of Italy." It is from the literary rather than from the interpretative side, therefore, that we shall naturally look for shortcomings; and yet it may be difficult, within the space at our command, to make these as evident as were Mr. Dugdale's shortcomings in interpretation. The relative merits of two styles cannot always be shown in a single sentence or even in a single paragraph; but if we take a canto and read first Mr. Butler's version of it, and then Mr. Norton's, we shall be conscious of their different quality; and if we analyze, to discover wherein that difference lies, we shall find it in the sum of innumerable slight touches, hardly noticed separately. For an example, let the reader study the apostrophe to Florence (vi., 127-151), and we shall be surprised if he does not feel the superiority of Mr. Norton's style, in which there is a union of strength and elasticity—now one to be used and now the other, as the case requires—not observable in Mr. Butler's style. Perhaps this difference will appear even in a shorter passage, like the following:

"O power of fancy, that at whiles so snatchest us from external things that a man heeds not whereas around are sounding a thousand trumpets, who moves thee, if the sense set thee not forth? Light moves thee, which is given form in heaven, of itself, or through a will which sends it down" (xvii, 13–18).

Thus Mr. Butler, to be compared with this: "O power imaginative, that dost sometimes so steal us from outward things that a man heeds it not, although around him a thousand trumpets sound, who moveth thee if the sense afford thee naught? A light, that in the heavens is formed, moveth thee by itself, or by a will that downward guides it." Leaving aside the question as to whose interpretation is the more nearly correct, can there be a doubt as to which style is the better?

But while superiority of style constitutes the most obvious excellence in Mr. Norton's version, we should create a false impression if we did not lay stress on the fact that this superiority is due to his more intimate sympathy with the spirit, and to his keener critical judgment of the minute details, of Dante's work; these, combined with taste—that faculty which Fitzgerald calls "the feminine of genius"—have enabled him to produce a translation which is "an addition to English literature."

After having thus briefly pointed out the general considerations which cause us to rank his translation above that of either Dugdale or Butler, we would set down a few suggestions which, as it seems to us, are improvements—for it is the privilege of every reader of Dante to believe his own rendering of certain words is the best. Pia de' Tolomei's brief

"Salsi colui che innanellata pria
Disposando m'avea con la sua gemma" (v. 135–6),

is not quite intelligible when translated, "he knows it, who, wedding me, had first ringed me with his own gem." Dante devotes only four lines to Pia; it would be strange, therefore, if, in a passage so condensed, he threw in the words "innanellata pria" merely to let us

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know that putting on a ring was one of the symbols of marriage. The other interpretation of these two words, which makes them refer to Pia's previous marriage (the Nello who let malaria waste her to death in Maremma being her second husband)—this interpretation seems to us preferable. Likewise, in the description of the Celestial Pilot (ii., 44) we prefer the reading *parea* to *faria*, although Mr. Norton has Witte with him in adopting the latter. To say of the Pilot "that if but described he would *make* blessed," suggests a train of thought that the imagination cannot easily follow; whereas the other interpretation, blessedness *seemed* to be written upon his face, or, as Butler puts it, "he appeared blessed by a sure title," is both poetic and clear. For the still more disputed line (vi. 111) "E vedrai Santafior, com' è *sicura*," Mr. Norton finds the reading "com' è *oscura*," and translates, "And thou wilt see Santaflora how dark it is." There is still a third variation, "come *si cura*." In this last case the meaning is, "And thou wilt see Santaflora, how it is cared for," that is, ruled or governed. But the first reading, "thou wilt see Santaflora how safe it is," appears to us much the best. The line occurs in the well-known passage in which Dante, pouring out sarcasm on the Guelph abuses in Italy, invokes the Emperor to come and behold them: the poet is ironical when he speaks of the "loving people" (l. 115), ironical also in his reference to the Guelph county of Santafiora. For him to say merely that the condition there is "dark," seems commonplace, and lacks both vividness and irony; but the epithet "safe" is truly ironical, and harmonizes with the general tone of Dante's invective. A little lower in this same passage Dante, addressing Florence, says, sarcastically of course, "this digression does not touch thee, thanks to thy people *che si argomenta*." None of the translators succeed, in our opinion, in quite interpreting the words we have italicized. Dugdale perhaps comes nearest with his "that reason so well"; Butler has it, "that is so full of reason"; Longfellow, "thy people who such forethought take"; Plumtre, "wise in argument"; Cary, "thy people, who so wisely speed." Mr. Norton, leaning rather to the interpretation of Longfellow and Cary, makes it "thanks to thy people that for itself takes heed." But it is evident to us that in *si argomenta* Dante alludes to the well-known passion of the Florentines for arguing: they were disputatious, they split hairs; and so the *si argomenta* is doubly ironical, implying not only that the Florentines "reasoned well," but that they disputed incessantly over everything. That they took good heed concerning their affairs is a sarcastic deduction from their contentiousness.

It will be seen that our criticism touches debatable passages about which opinions will probably always differ. Coming to more minute details, we should prefer the English "Montagues and Capulets" (vi., 106), which Shakspere has made familiar, to the Italian form "Montecchi" and "Cappelletti"; so, too, "Conrad," for "Corrado" (viii., 65 and 118), although we recognize how hard it is to follow rigidly any rule for Anglicizing foreign proper names. In the paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father *which* art in Heaven" is to be preferred to "who." Dante frequently uses the adjective *vermiglio*, which the English "vermilion" best represents. The precise shade of the color has changed, we believe, in recent times, it being now more yellow and less crimson than formerly; but the word "vermilion" is rich and poetic. The Elizabethans and their successors often used it. Spenser (in the "Epithalamion") speaks of the "goodly vermill stayne," Shakspere (Sonnet 98) of "the deep vermilion in the rose," Milton (in "Comus") of the "vermeil-tinctur'd lip"; Lovelace calls the rose

> "Vermilion ball that's given
> From lip to lip in heaven."

So there is sufficient reason, however dyers may change their fashion, for using it, instead of "red," wherever Dante does (ii., 7; xxviii., 55; xxix., 114 and 148). In translating the famous quotation beginning "Non è il mondan romore altro che un fiato" (xi., 100), we should keep Dante's word "rumor," which suggests (better than "renown") the element of fickleness and uncertainty which go to make up earthly fame. *Matto* (iii., 34) and *folle* (xii., 43) Mr. Norton translates respectively "foolish" and "mad"; it would be better to reverse them, as *matto* is much the stronger epithet. *Dolente* (xv., 81) carries the meaning of being sorry, that is, penitent, rather that that of "painful"; the P's on the sinner's brow are erased not because they give him pain, but because he repents him of the sins for which they stand. Would it not be well to keep the idea of bending which *piega* (xv., 123) conveys, instead of "overcomes," which calls up no picture? The same question arises in regard to *trastulla* (xvi., 90), which is a picturesque word in the Italian. *Marca* (xix., 45; xxvi., 73) is of course the mediæval "march"—still current in the phrase "the Marches of Ancona"—and it would be well to translate it by a word less abstract than "region." Would "countrified" be too colloquial an equivalent for *rozzo* (xxvi., 69)? And is not "ditties" preferable to "verses" as a rendering of *detti* (xxvi., 112)? We note a few misprints: Court for Count of Provence (p. 128, note 6); Anagna for Alagna, and 1253 for 1283 (both on p. 130).

We regret that we have not space for pointing out a few of the many felicities of expression which make Mr. Norton's translation better than Mr. Butler's, which was hitherto the best; but we have aimed simply to suggest places which might be improved before another edition is issued. His notes to the 'Purgatory' are naturally fuller than were those to the 'Hell,' because this canticle deals more largely with abstractions, with mediæval dogma and allegory; but the notes are never too long, and never argumentative. The 'Purgatory' has never, we conceive, had its due share of attention and admiration, although it is a work replete with fine illustrations of Dante's genius. It contains many pictures as vivid as the better-known pictures in the 'Hell,' and as that is animated by sternness, so is this suffused with tenderness. The atmosphere has changed; the gloom and luridness of the infernal regions are succeeded by sunshine and starlight; you can trace the progress of the poet merely by the increasing purity and brightness of the colors of the region through which his pilgrimage lies. Perfect is the correspondence between the outer scene and the spiritual state of the pilgrim; for none ever knew better than Dante that

> "He that has light within his own clear breast
> May sit i' the centre, and enjoy bright day;
> But he that hides a dark soul and foul thoughts,
> Benighted walks under the midday sun;
> Himself is his own dungeon."

These lines might serve as the motto not alone of the 'Purgatory,' but of Dante's entire epic, of whose significance they furnish a sure key.

CLARK'S COLLEGES OF OXFORD.—II.

The Colleges of Oxford: Their History and Traditions. Twenty-one chapters contributed by members of the colleges, edited by Andrew Clark, M.A., Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford. London: Methuen & Co.; New York: Macmillan.

THE foundations of Exeter, Oriel, and Queens had intervened between that of Merton and that of New College. In the history of Exeter we find proof that the difference between the Puritan régime and that of the Restoration was really great, though it may have been overstated, and though sceptical criticism may be disposed to refine this with other historical lines of demarcation almost out of existence. Conant, the Puritan rector put in by the Commonwealth, was an exemplary head, and made his college a model both of literary industry and of morality. Upon his ejection for refusing submission to the Act of Conformity, the crew of Comus came in, as Antony Wood, a strong Royalist, has testified. "Exeter College is now (1665) much debauched by a drunken Governor: whereas before in Dr. Conant's time it was accounted a civil house, it is now rude, and uncivil. The rector (Maynard) is good-natured, generous, and a good scholar; but he has forgot the way of College life and the decorum of a good scholar. He is much given to bibbing, and when there is a music meeting in one of the Fellows' chambers he will sit there, smoke, and drink till he is drunk and has to be led to his lodgings by the junior Fellows." So we are told by another and later witness: "There is nothing but drinking and dancery. Exeter is totally spoiled and so is Christchurch. There is over against Balliol a dingy, horrid, scandalous ale-house, fit for none but dragooners and tinkers. Here the Balliol men, by perpetual bibbing, add art and their natural stupidity to make themselves perfect sots."

A Balliol man may read this without a pang, since his College is now in the very front of academical progress. Balliol and Oriel owe their preëminence in recent times to their lucky exemption from the restrictions with regard to birthplace in the election of Fellows which were imposed on most of the colleges by the localism of the Middle Ages. Exeter was a Western College, Queen's was a Northern College, and both suffered from the restriction. Queen's especially had been reduced to a deplorable condition before new life was given it by the emancipatory hand of a Parliamentary Commission. People in the Middle Ages had very faint notions of the natural difference between one man and another. They thought that by the rod of discipline ruthlessly applied a silk purse might be made out of a sow's ear, and therefore in regulating the election of their Fellows they freely indulged in local, family, and other preferences, which proved ruinous to their main designs.

Another instance of the way in which "the best laid plans of mice and men" sometimes "gang agley" is Lincoln College, which, like New College, was founded at the time of Wiclif's movement. The founders were two reactionary Bishops, and the statutes state expressly that the College is intended to combat "that novel and pestilent sect which was assailing the sacraments and possessions of the Church." The phrase is notable, because by connecting the sacraments with the possessions it gives us the true key to the persecutions. It was not only for the doctrine of Transubstantiation that a wealthy Bishop or Abbot was fighting, nor is it likely that mere hatred of doctrinal error, though it might have made them bitter controversialists, would have driven them to wholesale murder. But could Bishops Fleming and Rothersham have looked into the magic glass of futurity, they would

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have seen among the Fellows of their college John Wesley, and among its rectors Mark Pattison.

Magdalen was founded by Waynflete, Chancellor of the hapless Henry VI. Its completion is one of the proofs that the general life of the nation was comparatively little disturbed by the murderous quarrels of the nobility. The sumptuous Founder's rooms, which are the pride of the College, once harbored a strange guest. Richard III. lodged in them on his memorable progress. Waynflete came to receive his king, and this tribute from a man who represented the highest morality of his age seems to show that no moral shock was given to the public mind by what is called Richard's usurpation, and that had his fears not hurried him into the murder of his nephews, he might have been generally accepted and have died with the crown upon his head. Magdalen was richly endowed with wealth as well as with beauty; but the founder unluckily indulged his local partialities in the election of Fellows, and the consequence was that his college sank into sinecurism and sensuality, which have been branded for ever by the caustic touch of Gibbon. Delivered by the Parliamentary Commission, it is now what its founder meant that it should be.

Corpus Christi, the college of Keble and Arnold in recent times, is notable as a genuine offspring of the Renaissance. It was founded in preference to a monastery in distinct view of the doom impending over the monastic foundations. Its statutes lay out a regular course of classical study, and in their own language affect a flowery elegance. But the grandest offspring of the Renaissance was Christchurch. Wolsey was not childless; but he of course had no legitimate child, and he fulfilled Bacon's aphorism as to the public philoprogenitiveness of childless men. He fell when his design was but half accomplished, and his place as founder was usurped by the King, though the usurper neglected to remove the Cardinal's hat from the stonework, and totally failed to expel the Cardinal's memory from the hearts of the alumni. Wolsey's munificence was rewarded after all, for his College, or, as all Christchurch men proudly call it, "The House," was for many years the one famous seat of learning and education among the Oxford colleges. The shade cast upon its honor by the supposed expulsion of Locke is undeserved. Locke was not expelled by the College, but deprived by order of the King. The luckless attempt of the Christchurch group of scholars to maintain against Bentley the genuineness of the Letters of Phalaris is a stain on the literary escutcheon not so easily removed.

Wolsey had lived long enough to see, and (as a Cardinal was necessarily a Conservative) no doubt he saw with sorrow, the connection of the Renaissance with the Reformation proved by the appearance of heresy in his College. There soon followed the great religious revolution, with its expulsions, restorations, and re-expulsions of Heads and Fellows, as the tide of change flowed, ebbed, and flowed again, breaking up academical life for the time. Colleges, however, continued to be founded. Trinity and St. Johns were both founded by Catholics under Mary. Wadham, the last great foundation, received its charter from James I. Its architecture, as the writer of the paper on it notes, is the enigma of architectural history, belonging to a style a century and a half earlier than the date of the foundation. This is typical of the whole history of Oxford, where the spirit of the Middle Ages lingered long. It lingered long, partly through the influence of the architecture, though still more owing to that of clerical and celibate fellowships; it regained a brief ascendancy, under the leadership of Newman and Pusey, during three decades of the present century. Keble College, the youngest on the list, is the product of this Neo-Catholic reaction, and not unlikely to be its gravestone. For 'Lux Mundi,' which is partly the work of Keble men, shows that criticism and science have found their way into that which was destined to be the academical fortress of High Church opinion. No college gates can shut out the air, or that with which the air of the times is laden.

The absorption of the University, which had practically taken place before, was formally consummated by Laud's statute requiring every member of the University to be a member of a college. The University was thus saddled with the mediæval statutes of the colleges, and with the restrictions imposed by the partialities of founders on the election of Fellows. We have had occasion to speak of the local restrictions and of their disastrous effects. Still more disastrous, perhaps, were the clerical restrictions. Of these the practical significance and strictness were greatly enhanced by the Reformation. In the Middle Ages, all learning, and even to a great extent art and such mechanical science as there was, were ecclesiastical, and college statutes which required a Fellow to take holy orders within a certain time after his election, by no means devoted him to merely clerical studies or work. But after the Reformation the calling of a clergyman became strictly professional, and dedicated him as a rule either to theology or to pastoral duties. The clerical restrictions now became clerical indeed, and practically excluded from the University all studies but theology and the ancient languages, a knowledge of which was fortunately held necessary for a theologian. All but the members of the State Church were at the same time shut out of the University by tests, mere boys being compelled, with a contempt for the rights of conscience characteristic of a political religion, to subscribe a set of articles comprising scores of disputable positions in divinity. Thus the University became a mere donkey-engine of the State Church, and of the Tory party, of which the State Church was the subservient ally.

In the Cambridge colleges, it is difficult to say from what cause, though the same clerical restrictions prevailed, the clerical character was less intense; the religious test at entrance was somewhat less stringent; the political connection of the University was somewhat more liberal; and Newton's philosophy, taking hold of the mind of the place, turned it partly to non-theological studies. Newton himself was saved to Cambridge and to science by the lucky occurrence of a vacancy in one of the very few lay fellowships of Trinity College, when he was on the point of having to resign as the penalty of not taking holy orders. But Oxford, during the last century, sank into a lethargy poorly relieved by the names of a few illustrious men who were rather boarders than alumni. No life but that of theological controversy was left. Balliol and Oriel, being free from local restrictions in the election of Fellows, led the way in a revival. Then came Parliamentary commissions, invoked by reformers in the University itself, and, by sweeping away the mediæval statutes of the colleges, together with the tests, they restored Oxford to intellectual life and to the nation. Laud's statute, requiring all members of the University to be members of a college, was repealed at the same time, and there is now a considerable body of independent students. Yet the number of these foundations is such, so richly are they endowed with both wealth and beauty, and such are the attractions of their social life as well as their educational advantages, that Oxford still is, and probably will always remain, practically a federation of colleges.

A Song of Life. By Margaret Warner Morley. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. 1891. 8vo, pp. 155. Illustrated.

As a popular book on nature this is a really successful effort. The publishers have treated it well, and, as is not always the case with ornamental books, the text is worthy of its handsome setting. The illustrations are delicate and suggestive touches in lines, artistically woven into the pages or around their margins, where they are effective and useful. In half-a-dozen short chapters the author puts the story of the origin and growth of the embryo, and the subsequent development, in plants, fishes, frogs, birds, and mammals. The plan of the work is novel, and the narrative is accurate and interesting to an unusual degree. Few writers on life's history give so much of it in a space so limited. If inclined to criticise, we might suggest that the quotations on pages 45 to 48 are not entirely apt, and are likely to give the impression that crustacea, radiates, etc., are all included as fishes; or we might call attention to the fact that authorities do not all agree that the song of the bird is inherited.

Jasmin: Barber, Poet, Philanthropist. By Samuel Smiles, LL.D. Harper & Bros. 1892.

Since Longfellow translated 'The Blind Girl of Castel-Cuillé,' Jasmin's name has been attractive to the poetically minded, and Miss Preston has done something to satisfy their curiosity by her later renderings. Mr. Samuel Smiles gives in small compass in this volume a sufficiently detailed biography, the few facts of which are interleaved with abstracts of the poet's longer works, and at the end is a version of "Franconette" and three other shorter pieces. The life is very easily told. Jasmin was born in poverty, and, when ten years old, saw his grandfather one day carried along the street in an armchair, and, running up to him, the boy threw himself into the old man's arms and asked, "Where are you going? Why do you weep? Why are you leaving our home?" "My child," said the old man, "I am going to the almshouse, where all the Jasmins die." He tells this anecdote in his autobiographical poem, "Mes Souvenirs," and adds others that disclose only a poor boy's childhood. He had some little charitable schooling, and became a barber. Then his natural gift broke into blossom; he wrote in his dialect, and one after another famous critic of Paris heard of him or saw him, Charles Nodier being the discoverer, and Sainte-Beuve praised him. He became the pride of his province, and in Paris he recited before the Academicians and royalty with the same vigor and enthusiasm as before the country audiences in Agen, or Toulouse, or elsewhere, for he went about doing what he could with his talent for charity's sake, to relieve the sufferers by famine or other misfortune, to repair churches, and for like objects. But, whether at the capital or with his own Gascons, he maintained his originality, his freshness and good sense, remained a barber, and composed new verses, and so, dying at the

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age of sixty-five, he had used his gift of song to the full, and done much good in the world about him, besides having his self-esteem, innocent and unconcealed as it was, very well satisfied by the praise of his comrades, and of the great men at Paris who fancied they patronized him, as, no doubt, he thought too.

Altogether it was a true poet's life, happily unperplexed by taking thought of many things, and unspoiled by being crowned at Agen. The tale is told well enough by Dr. Smiles, without being tagged with morals, but the best part of it is where the text at intervals is illuminated by the descriptions and narrative drawn from the poet's self-revealing work. And his simple country nature shines through the heavy style of the biographer, just as in the poem of "Franconette" in the appendix the grace, the charm, the inimitable freshness of true feeling make way through the harsh, unmusical, and awkward English verses.

Writers and Readers. By George Birkbeck Hill, D.C.L. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1892.

Dr. Hill gathers in this volume six very desultory lectures upon books and their uses, and pleases the reader by the wealth of anecdote and quotation and out-of-the-way instances which abound in his pages, and also by the frankness of his own opinions. He has at the start a subject rich in malicious delight to the ordinary devourer of books—the disagreement of critics about the masterpieces of their own times, or, as he calls it, the fluctuation of opinion. He handles it well, with wide knowledge and temperate spirit. The story, so far as it relates to our own century, is well known, but the freshness of his work lies in his survey of eighteenth-century opinion, in the criticism of Fielding and Richardson and others, about whom his special knowledge of the period gives him an advantage over other students. Of instances illustrative of lack of prophetic vision among the learned in literature, none is more complete in opaqueness than the contemptuous sentence passed on the Scotch dialect. Dr. Dugald Stewart writes:

"The influence of Scottish associations, so far as it is favorable to antiquity, is confined to Scotchmen alone, and furnishes no resources to the writer who aspires to a place among English classics. Nay, such is the effect of that provincial situation to which Scotland is now reduced, that the transactions of former ages are apt to convey to ourselves exaggerated conceptions of barbarism from the uncouth and degraded dialect in which they are recorded."

This was only eighteen years before 'Waverley.' "To write in that tongue," says Beattie, "is now impossible; such is the effect of mean expressions applied to an important subject"; and again he says that it is "ludicrous" to the Scotch themselves. Ten years after this was written came the Kilmarnock edition of Burns. Hume joined in the chorus of disdain for the old songs in the speech of the people; and Dr. Hill reminds us how Garrick changed the title of Home's play for fear that a Highland name would damn it, and provided besides a supposititious author for it in the shape of an Oxford student, who attended at rehearsals to claim it. Yet it was out of this "uncouth and degraded dialect" and the life of the people who used it that the only literature by which Scotland takes rank with literary nations proceeded, and that, too, within a score of years after these gentlemen of elegant taste had decided the matter so rashly. The blindness of critics, however, is commonly shared by the people of their time, and it is unfair to single out the individual Jeffrey or Lockhart, as if he were a perverse and capital sinner; and it is one merit of Dr. Hill that he deals with the errors of the critic, not as sporadic cases of dulness or incompetence, but as expressions of the changeful taste of the public, generation after generation. The men of the eighteenth century were not more stupid in letters than in politics, and the burst of Burns and Byron was not more a portent than the earthquake under the thrones.

Dr. Hill takes up in succeeding essays several topics upon which he has strong opinions, and among his traits may be noted a violent antipathy to college sports, a Johnsonian abhorrence of æsthetic diction and cruder word-painting, and finally a hearty belief in the educational value of literature. With an apt quotation he dismisses the philologist using Virgil as a comment on some Latin grammar, as

> "——one whose hand,
> Like the base Indian, threw a pearl away
> Richer than all his tribe,"

and summons Dr. Johnson to remind us, in his criticism of Milton on education, of the relative utility in ordinary life of what science and what literature gives the mind. In these later pages one may go along with the author or not (for the most part we find no difficulty in keeping company with him); but in any event the reader will feel a tonic contact with a vigorous judgment, and may well benefit, though he be well-read, by the special information and extract that may be found in all parts of the volume. Nor is the obvious leaning of Dr. Hill to the side of the men of old one which need be quarrelled with.

Age of the Domestic Animals: Being a complete Treatise on the Dentition of the Horse, Ox, Sheep, Hog, and Dog, and on the various other means of determining the Age of these Animals. By Rush Shippen Huidekoper, M.D. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis. 1891. 8vo, pp. 217. Fully illustrated.

It is to breeders, dealers, traders, veterinary surgeons, and students in the agricultural colleges—in fact, to all those having to do with horses, cattle, and other domestic animals—that this work appeals. The teeth being the principal means of determining the ages, the volume is almost entirely taken up with them; less than half-a-dozen pages are given to the discussion of horns. Man, not mentioned in the title, is included among the domestic animals. The impossibility of giving a complete treatise on the dentition in a volume of this size is at once apparent; yet, for the author's purposes, the title is not so far out of the way. A sufficient amount of information on the structure and growth in the earliest stages is given. The illustrations are very numerous, and, being so nearly of natural size, they will serve well for comparing in practical examinations. In the later periods, when the changes are less rapid, they are figured at intervals of a year or more; in the earlier, they are represented from month to month or from week to week. The normal effects of wear are well presented. Wolf teeth, abnormalities, malformations, accidentals, supernumeraries, and the effects of cribbing, are satisfactorily set forth. The tricks of the trader, in making the young appear older and the old younger, or in hiding the effects of cribbing, or in "Bishoping" as practised by the "Gyps"—filing the table even and then gouging out an artificial cup—all receive due attention. While he has no new evidence to offer on the disputed conclusion, the author himself is inclined to believe that drawing the milk teeth hastens the appearance of the permanent series, thus giving an animal the appearance of greater age.

Eminently practical as the book is, it forms a manual in which the subject has been scientifically treated.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Alexander, William. The Leading Ideas of the Gospels. New and revised ed. Macmillan. $1.75.
Ballance, C. A. Ligation in Continuity. Macmillan. $10.
Bonvalot, Gabriel. Across Thibet. Cassell. $3.50.
Bowser, Prof. E. A. Academic Algebra. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. $1.25.
Browne, E. G. A Traveller's Narrative Written to Illustrate the Episode of the Báb. Vol. II. English Translation and Notes. Cambridge, Eng.: The University Press; New York: Macmillan.
Burton, Mina E. Ruling the Planets. Harpers. 50 cents.
Church, R. W. Village Sermons. Macmillan. $1.75.
Church, R. W. The Oxford Movement. 3d ed. Macmillan. $1.50.
Couperus, Louis. Eline Vere. Appletons.
Crawford, F. M. Doctor Claudius. Macmillan. $1.
Darkness and Daylight; or, Lights and Shadows of New York Life. Hartford, Conn.: A. D. Worthington & Co.
Daudet, Alphonse. Rose and Ninette. Cassell. 50 cents.
Davidson, R. T., and Benham, W. Life of Archibald Campbell Tait. 3d ed. 2 vols. Macmillan. $4.
Desjardins, Paul. Le Devoir Présent. 2d ed. Paris: Armand Colin & Cie.
Farnell, G. S. Tales from Herodotus. Macmillan. 40 cents.
Fitzgerald, Percy. The Art of Acting. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co.: New York: Macmillan. 90 cents.
Fox, Norman. A Sketch of the Life of Thomas Rambault. Fords, Howard & Hulbert. $1.
Gissing, G. Denzil Quarrier. Macmillan. $1.
Gregg, D. A. Architectural Rendering in Pen and Ink. Parts I. and II. Boston: Ticknor & Co.
Harper's Bazar. Vol. 24. 1891. Harpers.
Harper's Magazine. Vols. 82 and 83. December, 1890—November, 1891. Harpers.
Harper's Weekly. Vol. 35. 1891. Harpers.
Hempel, Prof. Walther. Methods of Gas Analysis. Macmillan. $1.90.
Henry, W. W. Life, Correspondence and Speeches of Patrick Henry. Vol. III. Scribners. $4.
Huish, M. B. The Year's Art. 1892. London: J. S. Virtue & Co.
Jokai, Maurus. The Nameless Castle. St. Paul: The Price-McGill Co. 50 cents.
Knight, R. P. The Symbolical Language of Ancient Art and Mythology. New ed. J. W. Bouton. $5.
Lee, Margaret. One Touch of Nature. John A. Taylor & Co. 30 cents.
Le Sage, A. R. The Merry Bachelor. Worthington Co.
Loti, Pierre. The Book of Pity and of Death. Cassell. 50 cents.
Mackie, E. C. Luciani Menippus et Timon. Cambridge: University Press; New York: Macmillan.
McLennan, Malcolm. *Muckle Jock, and Other* Stories of Peasant Life in the North. Macmillan. $1.
Medini, F. R. Edalaine: A Metrical Romance. G. W. Dillingham.
Memoir and Sermons of Theodor Christlieb. A. C. Armstrong & Son. $2.
Mill, H. R. The Realm of Nature. [University Extension Manuals.] Scribners. $1.50.
Réal, Antony. The Story of the Stick in all Ages and Lands. J. W. Bouton.
Renan, E. Recollections and Letters. Cassell. $1.50.
Ritchie, Rev. A. Dancing before the Lord, and Other Sermons. Guild of St. Ignatius.
Russell, Prof. J. E. The Philosophy of Locke. Henry Holt & Co. $1.
Saint-Amand, Imbert de. The Youth of the Duchess of Angoulême. Scribners. $1.25.
Saltus, F. S. Flasks and Flagons. Buffalo: C. W. Moulton.
Robinson, R. E. Vermont. [American Commonwealths.] Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. $1.25.
Sargent, C. S. The Silva of North America. Vol. III. Anacardiaceæ — Leguminosæ. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
Sayce, A. H. The Races of the Old Testament. F. H. Revell Co. $1.20.
Sellar, Prof. W. Y. The Roman Poets of the Augustan Age: Horace and the Elegiac Poets. Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan.
Serao, Mathilde. Farewell, Love! Minerva Publishing Co. 25 cents.
Sherman, B. M. L'Ombra. J. W. Lovell Co. $1.25.
Sihler, Chr. The Hydriatic Treatment of Typhoid Fever. Cleveland, O.: The Author.
Sloane, T. O'C. Electric Toy-Making. N. W. Henley & Co. $1.
Smetham, Sarah, and Davies, W. Letters of James Smetham. Macmillan. $2.50.
Smith, Charles. Arithmetic for Schools. Cambridge: University Press; New York: Macmillan.
Smith, Saqui. Back from the Dead. Cassell. 50 cents.
Stanton, Edward. Dreams of the Dead. Boston: Lee & Shepard. 50 cents.
St. Aubyn, Alan. For the Old Sake's Sake. Rand, McNally & Co. 50 cents.

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Stephenson, H. M. Livy, Book IX. Cambridge: University Press; New York: Macmillan.
Stock, St. G. The Crito of Plato. Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan. 60 cents.
Sullivan, F., and I. E. What it Costs; or, Debtor and Creditor. Chicago: Laird & Lee. 50 cents.
The Modern Odyssey; or, Ulysses Up to Date. Cassell.
Tibbetts, G. P. College Requirements in Algebra. Boston: Ginn & Co. 55 cents.
Tredwell, D. M. A Monograph on Privately Illustrated Books. Privately Printed.
Waite, G. W., and White, G. H. A Straight Road to Cæsar. Boston: Ginn & Co. $1.25.
White, C. E. Number Lessons. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. 45 cents.
Whitmore, W. H. The Original Mother Goose's Melody. Boston: Damrell & Upham.

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